Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-071
Thursday
11 April 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-071 *11 April 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

International Affairs: Mubarak Addresses Africa Nuclear Conference in Cairo *[Cairo TV]* 1
International Affairs: Algeria To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo *[Algiers Radio]* 3
International Affairs: Libya To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo *[MENA]* 3
International Affairs: Morocco To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo *[AFP]* 3
International Affairs: Nigeria To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo *[Lagos TV]* 3

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab Financial Institutions Hold Annual Meeting *[Tunis Radio]* 3
Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab Lawyers Union Chief Condemns Turkish-Israeli Agreement *[MENA]* 4

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 2 Apr 4
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 2 Apr 6

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Reportedly Agrees To Release 500 Hamas Activists *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Apr]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Calls For 'Stopping' Hamas Activities in Jordan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Hamas 'Declared War' on PA, Blames Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Criticizes Jordan for 'Sheltering' Hamas Leaders *[London MBC TV]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Asks For 2 More Weeks To Form New Cabinet *[Jericho VOP]* ... 8
Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Holds Second Session 10 Apr *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Za'nun Views Agenda of Upcoming PNC Session *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Denies Land Confiscation Coordinated With PA *[Jericho VOP]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: Latest Issue of AL-HURRIYAH Banned *[Paris International]* 10

Egypt

Egypt: Opposition Parties Urge Hitting 'U.S. Interests' Over Libya *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Apr]* 10
Egypt: Opposition Parties Criticize U.S. 'Threat' Against Libya *[MENA]* 10
Egypt: Cairo Confirms 'Divergence of Views' With U.S. on Sudan *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Apr]* 10
Egypt: Al-Baz Criticizes Turkish-Israeli 'Military Alliance' *[MENA]* 11
Egypt: 'Terrorist Plot' Foiled; 245 Arrested *[MENA]* 11
Egypt: Al-Sharif on Council of Ministers Session Topics *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Egypt: Writer Examines Reported U.S.-Israeli Pact *[AL-AHRAM 4 Apr]* 12

Libya

Libya: Al-Qadhafi Phones Mubarak, al-Asad Over U.S. 'Insolence' *[Tripoli TV]* 15

Libya: Political Affairs Editor on 'Falsehoods' of 'War Minister' *[JANA]* 15
Libya: Paper Assails U.S. Defense Secretary's 'Hostile' Remarks *[JANA]* 16

Mauritania

Mauritania: Interior Minister Imposes 3-Month Ban on Newspaper *[Libreville Radio]* 16

Sudan

Sudan: Radio Reports on Signing of Government-Rebel Peace Accord *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
Sudan: Iraqi Businessman Involved in Arms Purchases Freed *[MENA]* 17

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: Polisario Representative—UN Unable To Hold Referendum *[Algiers Radio]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: 'Perpetrators' of 7 Apr Arson Attacks Arrested *[WAKH]* 19

Kuwait

Kuwait: Turkish Envoy Questioned on Military Accord With Israel *[KUNA]* 19
Kuwait: Foreign Minister Interviewed on Israel, Jordan, Iraq *[AL-SHIRA' 8 Apr]* 19

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Characteristics of Reform Movement Outlined *[London AL-ISLAH 1 Apr]* 20
Saudi Arabia: Article Views Prospects for Religious Reform *[London THE GUARDIAN 11 Apr]* 22

Yemen

Yemen: 'Intensified Military Preparations' in al-Hadidah *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Apr]* 23

IRAQ

Iraq: Oil-for-Food Talks Said 'Close to Agreement' *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Apr]* 25
Iraq: Oil Talks Reportedly Draw Butrus-Ghali's 'Personal Interest' *[Baghdad TV]* 26
Iraq: Newspaper Says Embargo Likely To Be Lifted 'Soon' *[INA]* 26
Iraq: Clinton's Refusal To Meet Youth Delegation Ridiculed *[INA]* 27
Iraq: Opposition Unable To Confirm Saddam's Daughter Attempted Suicide *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Apr]* 28
Iraq: Article Alleges Rift Between 'Udayy, Qusayy *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 8 Mar]* 28
Iraq: Saddam Speaks on Importance of 'Collective Action' *[INA]* 30
Iraq: PUK's Talabani Views Situation in Iraq, Turkish Operations *[MENA]* 31

ISRAEL

Israel: Planes Return After Attacking Area 'Under Syrian Control' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Israel: Children To Be Taken From Qiryat Shemona; Shahaq Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Israel: Baraq—No Place in Lebanon Immune to Israeli Retaliation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Israel: Deputy Defense Minister Or on Beirut Air Raid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Israel: Baraq Briefs U.S. Ambassador on IDF Raids in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Israel: Hizballah Reaction To Result in Harsher Israeli Response *[Jerusalem TV]* 34
Israel: 'Change' in Peres Stance on Hizballah; Or Discusses Options *[Jerusalem TV]* 35

Israel: Ben-Eli'ezer Warns Right Wing After Threat to Peres *[Jerusalem TV]* 35

JORDAN

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Said Target of Failed Assassination Attempt *[AL-AYYAM 9 Apr]* 36
Jordan: Al-Kabariti Denies Reports on Talks With Israel, Turkey *[AL-RA'Y 11 Apr]* 36
Jordan: No 'Official' Comment on 'Arafat's Remarks About Hamas *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Apr]* 36
Jordan: Envoy Asks For 'Clarifications' on 'Arafat's Statements *[Amman Radio]* 36
Jordan: King Husayn Addresses Reception for Arab, Foreign Media *[Amman TV]* 37

LEBANON

Lebanon: Israeli Shelling Reported in South; 'Resistance' Responds *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Lebanon: Israeli Soldier Killed in 'Resistance' Rocket Attack *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Lebanon: IDF Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in Hizballah Shelling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Lebanon: Israeli Shelling Continues; 'Resistance' Attacks Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Lebanon: Raids on South, Ba'labakk Reported; Tyre Army Post Hit *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Raid on Tyre Post 'Came From Sea' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* . 39
Lebanon: IDF Confirms Air Force Raid on Hizballah in Beirut *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 39
Lebanon: Israeli Gunboats Shell Southern Suburb; Air Traffic Stopped *[VOL]* 40
Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Attacks on Beirut's Southern Suburb *[Voice of the Oppressed]* . 40
Lebanon: Pilots Report 'Accurate Hits' in Beirut Raid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Lebanon: Israeli Army Communique Tells Lebanese Not To Get Involved *[Voice of the South]* 40
Lebanon: Air Traffic Resumes; More Israeli Raids on South Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Lebanon: Helicopters, Gunboats Target Hizballah Shura Council *[VOL]* 41
Lebanon: Army To Answer Israeli Attacks 'With Every Means' *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Overfly Suburb; Civilian Killed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
Lebanon: Hizballah's Yazbak—'Zionist Aggression' Makes Us Stronger *[Voice of the Oppressed]* . 41
Lebanon: Israeli Planes Attack al-Jiyah Hills *[VOL]* 42
Lebanon: Israeli Planes Raid Civilian Convoy; Material Damage *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Lebanon: Military Source Tells Citizens To Beware 'Objects' *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Lebanon: Defense Minister Comments on 'Aggression,' Calls For Unity *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Lebanon: 27 Lebanese Hostages Released in Liberia *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Lebanon: Fadlallah—Turkey-Israel Treaty Creates Anti-Arab Alliance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43
Lebanon: Lahdists Reportedly Leaving Country *[AL-SHIRA' 4 Mar]* 43
Lebanon: 'Resistance' Use of Informational Warfare Viewed *[AL-'AHD 16 Feb]* 45

SYRIA

Syria: Radio Reports al-Qadhdhafi's Phones al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Syria: Press Comments on Turkish-Israeli Military Agreement *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Syria: Radio—Turkish-Israeli Military Pact 'Serious Precedent' *[Damascus Radio]* 48

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Meets UN Official, U.S. Senator *[Message of Freedom]* 49
Afghanistan: Taleban Given Equipment by Pakistan to Produce Narcotics *[Kabul Radio]* 49
Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Attack on Kabul Kills 1, Injures 2 *[Kabul Radio]* 49
Afghanistan: Government Aircraft Bomb Taleban Forces South of Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 49

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Troops Occupy 'First Position' in UN Peacekeeping *[Dhaka Radio]* 49

Bangladesh: Political Parties Urged To Uphold Democratic Values *[JANAKANTHA 4 Apr]* ... 49

India

India: 2 'Pakistani-Trained Militants' Arrested in Delhi *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
India: Russian Foreign Minister Visit Viewed *[INDIAN EXPRESS 9 Apr]* ... 51
India: Test Flight Conducted for Unmanned Reconnaissance Aircraft *[Delhi TV]* ... 52
India: Space Agency Completes Design of Cryogenic Engine *[THE HINDU 5 Apr]* ... 52
India: Commentary Views Sino-Pakistan Nuclear Cooperation *[Delhi International]* ... 53
India: Kashmir 'Migrants' To Be Allowed To Vote *[Delhi Radio]* ... 54
India: Article Views CTBT, Nuclear Deterrence *[INDIAN EXPRESS 6 Apr]* ... 54
India: Article Views Pakistan's Nuclear Program, U.S. 'Game' *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 8 Apr]* 56
India: Editorial on Confused Political Spectrum *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 8 Apr]* ... 57
India: Poll Said To Indicate 'Hung Parliament' *[THE HINDU 8 Apr]* ... 58
India: Article on Financial Effects of Nuclear Issue *[BUSINESS STANDARD 6 Apr]* ... 60
India: Editorial Views Trade Deficit, Foreign Investment *[THE TELEGRAPH 5 Apr]* ... 62

Iran

Iran: Foreign Ministry Asks Turkey To Recall 4 Diplomats *[IRNA]* ... 62
Iran: Daily Urges Ankara To Return to Fold of Islamic Countries *[IRNA]* ... 62
Iran: Turkish Moves To Bolster Ties to Israel Criticized *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 7 Apr]* 63
Iran: Editorial Says Israel Double-Crossing Palestinian Leaders *[TEHRAN TIMES 3 Apr]* ... 63
Iran: Daily Criticizes Compromise by Arab Leaders Toward Israel *[SALAM 2 Apr]* ... 64
Iran: Topics Suggested for Tehran, EU Talks *[IRAN NEWS 2 Apr]* ... 64
Iran: Daily Views EU-Iran Talks; Calls On West To Apologize *[KEYHAN 3 Apr]* ... 65
Iran: Majles Speaker States U.S. Causing Country's Drug Problems *[Tehran TV]* ... 66
Iran: Commentary Sees U.S. Moves on Environment Policy as Suspect *[Tehran Radio]* ... 67
Iran: Iraqi Opposition Urged To Listen to 'Voice of Reason' *[IRAN NEWS 6 Apr]* ... 67
Iran: Paper on Algerian Selection of Leader *[IRAN NEWS 8 Apr]* ... 68
Iran: Daily Comments on Chirac's Lebanese Visit, French Presence *[IRAN NEWS 7 Apr]* ... 68
Iran: Velayati Comments on OIC Meeting in Sarajevo *[IRNA]* ... 69
Iran: Daily Comments on Invalidation of Esfahan Election Results *[SALAM 2 Apr]* ... 70
Iran: Deputy Investigates Possible Municipal Malfeasance *[IRAN NEWS 4 Apr]* ... 70
Iran: 2 Provincial Radio Stations Become Operational *[Tehran Radio]* ... 70

Pakistan

Pakistan: Minister Reports Failed Attempts on Bhutto's Life *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 71
Pakistan: Leghari Fetes Azerbaijan's Aliyev, Speaks on Issues *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 71
Pakistan: Bhutto, Azerbaijan's Aliyev Address News Conference *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 72
Pakistan: Bhutto, Azerbaijan's Aliyev Hold Talks, Sign Agreements *[Islamabad TV]* ... 72
Pakistan: Bhutto, Azerbaijani President Discuss Bilateral Issues, Hold News Conference *[TURAN]* ... 72
Pakistan: Azerbaijani President Attends Banquet, Travels to Lahore *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 73
Pakistan: Editorial—Senator Brown's Visit Step Toward Afghan Peace *[THE FRONTIER POST 10 Apr]* ... 73
Pakistan: Report Views Senator Brown's Meetings With Afghan Officials *[THE FRONTIER POST 10 Apr]* ... 74
Pakistan: Bhutto Addresses India on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 74
Pakistan: Kashmiris Condemn Rights Abuses; Journalist Found Dead *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 75
Pakistan: Grenade Explodes at Lahore PTV Station *[THE NATION 10 Apr]* ... 75

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Parliament Passes Motion on State of Emergency *[Colombo International]* ... 76
Sri Lanka: Official—'No Intention' of Delaying Local Body Elections *[DAILY NEWS 10 Apr]* 76

International Affairs: Mubarak Addresses Africa Nuclear Conference in Cairo

NC1104090496 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0720 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the commencement of the conference on the denuclearization of Africa at the International Conference Center in Madinat al-Nasr, Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God; the Merciful and Compassionate. Ladies and Gentlemen; esteemed guests.

I am pleased to welcome you on this African land that takes pride in belonging to the glorious continent and its great civilization; the continent that today witnesses the making of a milestone in our joint history that is added to numerous brilliant events we made and developed together in pursuit of our noble goals and objectives in order to contribute to the making of a world prevailed by peace, security, and stability.

History will register in its immortal records that the African continent was at the lead of the powers that showed great interest in the issue of nuclear weapons at an early stage. It sought to protect its land and the entire world against the risks and hazards they involve.

You remember that this city hosted the first summit of African leaders, the founders of the OAU, in 1964. That summit culminated in the first Cairo Declaration that called for denuclearizing Africa and making it refrain from the manufacture, possession, and ownership of this fatal weapon in accordance with a binding treaty with clear features and provisions that the states of the continent would join and with which they would comply.

This call represented the vision of these great founders of a world free of nuclear weapons and free of fear from an all out nuclear confrontation that would destroy man's civilization and abort his march toward increased prosperity and progress.

Today, after more than 30 years and in the same location, in this northern spot of the continent, we celebrate the realization of this great dream to fulfill that pioneering vision. Some people believed that vision to be a fantasy, when the world was the scene of a feverish race to possess and develop nuclear weapons under the false assumption that it could achieve the security that protects against all threats. The world raced to monopolize a unique, devastating, power source that guarantees its holder a prominent status among the nations.

After these three decades, in which humanity went through many great incidents and profound changes and suffered from various forms of conflict and the use of force, the African continent takes another pioneering step. It gives the example to the continents and various areas of the world. Africa today celebrates the signing of a treaty that constitutes a concrete accomplishment on the road to prohibiting nuclear proliferation at the regional and world levels. It will be signed at a time when public rejection of the possession of nuclear weapons has become a general phenomenon in which the different nations take part after human civilization had managed to overcome the stage in which states raced to achieve security and glory by possessing the most fatal and destructive weapons. Nations' powers are now measured by the degree of scientific progress they have and the ability to compete in production and development.

The international community, which stands at the doorstep of a new historic period, has to change the concepts that prevailed in earlier times and whose experience and time have shown to be both wrong and dangerous. The world community must realize that the nuclear deterrent, which some people talked about and insisted on, is nothing but an obstacle to security and development and a direct threat involving, not one state or group of states alone, but the entire world and its security and stability.

The mass destruction and ruin caused by nuclear weapons have no limits, do not differentiate between one country or another, and do not stop at the borders of a specific region or continent. There is no doubt that your participation in this conference, as representatives of Africa, countries from other world continents, prestigious international organizations, and other regions free of nuclear weapons, is an important event that proves that the world community is determined, despite all the difficulties and obstacles, to proceed toward achieving the sublime goal; namely, to free the world of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

Parallel to this is the fact the human community is now undergoing a radical change in concepts and views. After man had believed that the use of force and threat to use force constituted a sure, if not the only, way to restoring rights and defending interests, we have started to discern a rising and growing tendency to demand the parties to any conflict to settle it peacefully. The purpose of this is to make right triumph over force and to make values and principles prevail over maneuvers and ambitions. Thus, the human community will turn a new leaf in the history of its progress and development.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Although this tendency is yet to take root in contemporary modern reality; and although we still see several examples of the use of force, there is no doubt that we must limit the possibility of an outbreak of an armed conflict among various countries and groups, even if on a gradual basis. Here comes the special importance of ridding the entire world of the dangers of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction that represent the highest degree of armed force and the most dangerous and threatening to human civilization.

Brothers and sisters: Egypt and a number of sisterly countries have been in the forefront of powers that called for renouncing the nuclear military option. Egypt signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on the first day the treaty was opened for signature. It was sincere about and determined to secure the universality of this treaty so that all members of the world community in various continents — without exception and without differentiating between small or major states — would join it. The fact is that Egypt and its African sisters have taken it upon themselves to play a major role in safeguarding security and stability, not only at the African level, but also in the other areas with which our interests are interrelated, including the Middle East, which has a special strategic importance for Africa and the various world powers.

Among the issues that Africa has paid particular attention to include establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, urging all its countries to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and complying with the treaty's restrictions and enjoying its guarantees so that the regional tendency toward establishing zones free of nuclear weapons would be consolidated and would be given its desired global nature.

It might be proper to seize this opportunity and invite you to join forces and urge the countries of the world, particularly the nuclear states, to avoid taking any measures or policies that might further aggravate the nuclear problem or increase the proliferation of these weapons vertically or horizontally. We call on these states to take further measures in the field of nuclar disarmament through more serious cuts in their nuclear arsenals. We call on these states as well to increase efforts to conclude the agreement that imposes an exhaustive ban on nuclear tests without discrimination or exception and regardless of the environment and force of these tests or the purpose thereof.

In the meantime, I urge you all to hurry up and put our African treaty into effect and urge all the states of the Middle East to take a similar step among them so that we can protect this region against the risks of these fatal weapons and protect Africa's security against the repercussions of these risks in neighboring areas.

It is undoubtedly true that declaring a nuclear-free zone constitutes a significant step toward preventing the proliferation of these destructive weapons and reaching our noble goal of achieving the complete elimination of these weapons from world arsenals.

Since this step completes the efforts involved in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], we urge the international community, primarily the nuclear states, to encourage it by taking effective practical steps to consolidate commitment to the relevant texts in the international agreements concerning the setting up of nuclear-free zones.

On the other hand brothers and sisters, we call on these states to provide guarantees to the states that sign these agreements and the NPT that nuclear weapons will not be used against them and that they will not be threatened with the use of nuclear weapons. These states should also guarantee that no other party will be allowed to do that.

I think that you agree with me that the least non-nuclear states that support the system of nonproliferation could demand is to be protected against the risks involved in the proliferation of these weapons and to see actual progress toward nuclear disarmament by the nuclear states that promised to seriously negotiate this matter.

It is a source of pride for all the African people that their leaders can achieve this great historic accomplishment that demonstrates Africa's determination to take its share in the responsibility to rid mankind of the evil of nuclear weapons and urge other world powers to take their responsibilities so that we can free the world of the threats involved in the possession of nuclear weapons and the negative impact these weapons can leave on man's security and stability now and in the future.

We are certain that signing this historic treaty will open wide horizons for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the countries of the continent and other international parties to serve the progress and prosperity of their people and their economic and social development. This includes protection against environmental pollution as a result of waste and other radioactive material that affects all forms of life on our planet when man needs to consolidate his sense of safety and reassurance about his life and the environment in which he lives.

May the people of the African continent live in peace and safety; may the African struggle for stability, prosperity, and development live on; may every African step we take on the road to a better future be taken in safety.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

My God guide your steps. God's peace and mercy be on you. [applause]

International Affairs: Algeria To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo

LD1004155696 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf left Algiers today for Cairo to represent Algeria at the signing ceremony of the convention making Africa a nuclear-free zone.

The signing of the convention by the OAU member states tomorrow will make Africa the fourth nuclear-free zone in the world after the Arctic Ocean, Latin America, and the Pacific Ocean. [passage omitted]

International Affairs: Libya To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo

NC1104063996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2312 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—'Umar al-Muntasir, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee for Liaison and International Cooperation (foreign minister), arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt that will last a few days. Al-Muntasir is scheduled to attend the ceremony in which a treaty declaring Africa free of nuclear weapons will be signed.

International Affairs: Morocco To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo

BR1004143696 Paris AFP in French 1447 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 10 Apr (AFP) — Morocco will sign the treaty on the denuclearization of Africa in Cairo on Thursday [11 April], a diplomatic source in Paris said today.

"Morocco will sign it without a doubt," the source told AFP. Initially Morocco — which has withdrawn from the OAU because the latter recognized Western Sahara in 1985 — intended to boycott the ceremony.

The African countries will sign a "treaty which creates a zone free of nuclear weapons," following the example of Latin America, the Caribbean, the Antarctic, and the South Pacific.

International Affairs: Nigeria To Sign Africa Nuclear Treaty in Cairo

AB1004215696 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Nigerian] Foreign Affairs Minister Chief Tom Ikimi has left for Cairo, Egypt, where he will attend the signing ceremony of the Pelindaba Treaty on the denuclearization of Africa. The ceremony, which takes place tomorrow, will be hosted by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmud Musa and other foreign ministers of member states of the Organization of African Unity expected to attend.

The treaty articulated in the Cairo Declaration of 1964 was adopted at the 31st OUA heads of state and government summit in Addis Ababa. The Pelindaba Agreement, which has received the support of the United Nations, is said to be the practical expression by African countries to make the continent a nuclear weapons-free zone. Chief Ikimi will be in Cairo for four days and intends to hold discussions on bilateral matters with his African conterparts.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab Financial Institutions Hold Annual Meeting

LD1004171696 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On instructions from [Tunisian] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, [Tunisian] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui this morning presided over the opening session of the annual conference of the Arab financial institutions at the Conference Hall in Tunis. The meeting was attended by Mohamed Ghanouchi, Tunisian minister of international cooperation and foreign investments, Ahmad Hamid al-Ta'ir, chairman of this session and UAE minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, the heads of five Arab financial institutions — the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, and the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corp — as well as official delegations from 21 Arab countries, led by the ministers of economy and finance, and governors of the Arab central banks. Diplomats also attended the opening session.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Karoui delivered a speech. [passage omitted]

He stressed that radical changes have led to a new phase in international relations, marked by the fact that the economy has acquired a global nature, and by a growing number of groupings and blocs, a matter which means disappearing borders, interdependence of interests, increasing competition, and the adoption of criteria to improve efficiency. [passage omitted]

For his part, Ahmad Hamid al-Ta'ir, chairman of the current session and UAE minister of state for financial

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and industrial affairs, spoke about the most important issues to be broached during these meetings and the role of the Arab financial institutions in developing development in the Arab countries.

[Begin Al-Ta'ir recording] These meetings are an occasion to follow up the annual reports of the Arab financial institutions, which are interested in the Arab region, and which offer easy repayment loans and donations for Arab development projects, as well as investments in agricultural and services projects. They are now focusing on joint Arab projects such as electrial links, roads, and other projects. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab Lawyers Union Chief Condemns Turkish-Israeli Agreement

NC1004121396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Faruq Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Union, has condemned the military agreement between Ankara and Tel Aviv that allows Israeli airplanes to use Turkish airspace and airports.

Abu-'Isa said in a statement issued today that he considers this a dangerous sign in that it turns Turkey into a base from which Israeli military planes can take off, whether on combat missions or reconnaissance sorties, against Syria and Lebanon. This means it will now be easier for Israel to continue to operate its network of military hegemony over the region and to practice its acts of aggression against the sons of the Arab nation.

Abu-'Isa condemned the agreement and said it will soon introduce greater complications and threats to the region, harming international and regional peace and security.

Abu-'Isa called on Arab governments and popular organizations to reject and resist this stance by putting pressure on Turkey so that it will abide by its commitments as an important member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and a country neighboring important Arab countries like Syria and Iraq with many interests in common.

He asked Turkey to solve the problem of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers' water quickly — a problem Turkey recently created with Syria and Lebanon. He also asked Turkey to consider the historic Turkish-Arab relations and to respect its relations of good-neighborliness with the Arab countries.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 2 Apr

NC1004080096

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 April edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Opposition Parties File Law Suit Against Public Sector Sale
2. Report on Disagreements Within Palestinian Security Agency
3. AL-SHA'B Publishes Clauses of Expected U.S.-Israeli Accord
4. Chief Editor Berates U.S.-Egypt Collaboration Against Sudan
5. Committee Formed for Defense of Prisoners of Conscience
6. Islamists Win Seats in Cairo University Teachers Club

OPPOSITION PARTIES FILE LAW SUIT AGAINST PUBLIC SECTOR SALE

A front-page, 480-word report says that leaders of the Labor, National Progressive Unionist Grouping, and Nasirite parties, as well as a number of leading politicians and workers have filed "the first law suit" against the sale of the public sector.

The unattributed report says the suit argues that the sale is part of the measures to increase "subservience" to foreign parties, namely international financial institutions, "especially the World Bank and the IMF," and donor countries."

REPORT ON DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN PALESTINIAN SECURITY AGENCY

A 450-word, unattributed, front-page report says "informed Palestinian sources in Gaza have told AL-SHA'B about growing disagreements within the Palestinian security apparatus and criticism of Palestinian President 'Arafat's decisions."

The reason, the report adds, is the Palestinian police's recent "excesses" against Palestinian people, including arrests and closure of educational, charity, and medical institutions "because of growing Israeli and U.S. pressure and demands."

The sources say senior officers sometimes disobeyed orders. They add that 'Arafat recently fired two senior commanders of Palestinian intelligence. They were let

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

go because they complained about the "strict measures" they were asked to carry out "against more than half of the Palestinian people and after they warned of signs of a civil and sectarian war."

AL-SHA'B PUBLISHES CLAUSES OF EXPECTED U.S.-ISRAELI ACCORD

A 470-word report on pages 1 and 8, filed by Mahmud Bakri, says: "AL-SHA'B has obtained from well-informed political sources details of the serious strategic agreement expected to be signed between the United States and Israel during Zionist Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' next visit to Washington."

The report adds that the agreement, "one of the fruits of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit," contains many points "representing a serious threat to Egyptian and pan-Arab security" and turns Israel into a deterrent force in the region.

The report mentions that the agreement includes 10 clauses on the United States' commitment to military aid for the Israeli army and to modernizing and developing the army. Other clauses call for "full" U.S.-Israeli cooperation on space and spy satellites and for "full military and strategic cooperation against any long-term military threats." One clause calls for stockpiling "advanced U.S. ammunitions and weapons at important strategic sites that allow for rapid military operations in the region." Another clause provides for encouraging "military alliances between Arab countries and Israel and that the United States will militarily sponsor the formation of such alliances." The 10th clause calls for establishing security links between the Israeli and U.S. military staff commands and between the Mosad and the CIA.

CHIEF EDITOR BERATES U.S.-EGYPT COLLABORATION AGAINST SUDAN

Page 2 is entirely devoted to an article by AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn who discusses the "intimate relationship between Egypt and Sudan," Egyptian-U.S. cooperation, the Security Council resolution against Sudan, and "moves" against Sudan by Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda. The approximately 3,400-word article is headlined: "The Egyptian Government Besieges Egypt, Strikes Its National Security, and Participates in Slaying Muslim Arab Sudan."

The writer mainly defends Sudan, berates what he calls Egyptian and U.S. designs against Sudan, and claims that countries like Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda are working against Sudan by supporting rebels in the south.

He says: "In fact, the United States did not want to offer the Egyptian regime the honor of bringing down the Islamic regime in Sudan so that the Egyptian regime could not assume a bigger position and the assumed new regime in Sudan would not be subject to the Egyptian Government. The United States wanted to carry out this task in its own way, at the time it chose, and through other non-Egyptian parties, led by the regimes in Eritrea, Uganda, and Ethiopia." He adds that the United States wants the Egyptian regime to impart legitimacy to the U.S. move without directly participating in that move.

He says Egypt is being confronted by a Jordanian-Israeli-Turkish-U.S. military alliance. Egypt is told that the alliance has been established and it should join the alliance as a "minor partner or else bang its head against a wall." He notes that the alliance forms the "second arm of the pincers," the first being the U.S. forces in the Gulf and the "two nuts to be broken are Iraq and Iran."

The chief editor says: "We realize that arrogant global forces do not know logic, but we expose their hostile intentions toward the nation. We send a final call to "Egypt's rulers not to pursue their participation in this hideous crime."

He adds that the goal is to "strike at the independence-oriented Islamic regime in Sudan which, when stable, will provide an example for oppressed Muslims in neighboring countries—Uganda, Ethiopia, and "Eritrea—who are oppressed even though they are a majority." He says the "international colonialist forces are fearful of the danger of the spreading Islamic contagion."

COMMITTEE FORMED FOR DEFENSE OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

A 1,500-word report on page 7, filed by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, says: "Amid a large gathering of writers, journalists, politicians, and intellectuals from all trends and inclinations in Egypt, the National Committee for the Defense of Prisoners of Conscience held a news conference at noon last Saturday to announce its formation."

The report adds that the committee is comprised of more than 100 members who represent the most prominent personalities working in the political, journalistic, and cultural fields in Egypt, "which imparts to the committee a strength in the defense of human rights that cannot be ignored."

ISLAMISTS WIN SEATS IN CAIRO UNIVERSITY TEACHERS CLUB

Page 8 features a 300-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad on elections for university teachers clubs.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The report says the "Islamic trend" won two of four seats in elections to the Cairo University Teachers Club "last Friday evening." Elsewhere, the report adds, "Islamic and national trend" candidates protested against the Hulwan University elections in which people supportive of the university administration had won.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 2 Apr

NC1004151896

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 April edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Column Says Extremists Not Pleased With New al-Azhar Shaykh
2. Awqaf Minister Drops Idea of Standardizing Friday Sermon
3. Columnist Says No Dispute Between Scholars, al-Azhar Shaykh
4. Al-Azhar Shaykh Attends Alexandria University Seminar
5. Al-Azhar Shaykh Interviewed on Topical Issues

COLUMN SAYS EXTREMISTS NOT PLEASED WITH NEW AL-AZHAR SHAYKH

A 300-word column on page 1 by 'AQIDATI Board Chairman Samir Rajab says "most" religious quarters in the Islamic World have welcomed the appointment of Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi as the new Shaykh of al-Azhar in view of his high qualifications. He adds that the appointment, however, has not pleased some "extremists." However, it is enough that the "moderates" who pursue the course of correct Islam are "optimistic" about this appointment.

AWQAF MINISTER DROPS IDEA OF STANDARDIZING FRIDAY SERMON

A 100-word report on page 1 says Awqaf Minister Dr. Mahmud Hamdi Zaqzuq has dropped the idea of "standardizing" the theme of the Friday sermon in the mosques to enable the preachers to discuss the people's problems according to the circumstances of each district. Zaqzuq affirmed that the freedom of the preacher is "guaranteed under the current climate of freedom and democracy in Egypt" provided he adheres to the correct course of Islam and does not exploit the pulpit to slander people and level accusations at them.

COLUMNIST SAYS NO DISPUTE BETWEEN SCHOLARS, AL-AZHAR SHAYKH

A 400-word column by Basyuni al-Halawani on page 6 praises the meeting held between the new shaykh of al-Azhar, Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, and members of the Islamic Research Council. He says the meeting dispelled "speculation" that there are "major differences" between Tantawi and the council members. The writer says there must be no differences in the coming phase and that the Muslim scholars must work as "a team" to fight the phenomena of "extremism, degeneration, and decay that have afflicted our societies and left clear fingerprints on our social and intellectual life."

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH ATTENDS ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR

A 300-word report by Majdi Za'tar on page 9 says al-Azhar Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi addressed a seminar on "Islam and Human Health" organized by Alexandria University. Tantawi said Islam is a religion of "tolerance" and "moderation." He also said Islam is founded on justice and on placing the public interest before any private interest. He added that "we must promote altruism, spread Islam and security, and fight by any means legitimate in the eyes of God anyone who wants to subvert, destroy, or sow corruption on earth." "We must give him advice and even use threats if need be, and if this does not work, then the law must take its course." The report does not mention any views by Tantawi on two sensitive issues: suicide attacks and female circumcision.

A report on the same seminar published by the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I on 31 March says that Tantawi spelled out his views on suicide attacks and female circumcision. Regarding suicide attacks, he seemed to imply that a suicide bomber cannot be regarded as a "martyr", and he offered the following argument: "There is a difference. If an individual is on a battlefield and sacrifices his life to kill his enemies, he is a martyr. But as regards he who kills innocent children and women, this is a matter between him and God. I cannot say both cases are equal." On female circumcision, he seemed to maintain the position he used to take when he was Mufti of Egypt, which was opposed to female circumcision, contradicting his predecessor Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, who supported this practice. At the seminar Tantawi said "female circumcision is a custom, not a religious duty," and that the sources quoting Prophet Muhammad on this matter are "weak" and "unreliable."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH INTERVIEWED ON TOPICAL ISSUES

On page 8 and 9, the newspaper publishes a 1,000-word interview with al-Azhar Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and Musa Hal. On relations between al-Azhar and Dar al-Ifta', Dr. Tantawi says they maintain the "relations of a brother with a brother." He adds that the Egyptian Dar al-Ifta' has one specific duty: to prescribe "what is allowed and what is prohibited," while al-Azhar is an "educational institution." He affirms that there is cooperation between al-Azhar and Dar al-Ifta'. He expresses the hope that the views of the two establishments will, in the future, be "close", better yet "identical." On his well-known openness and fairness toward women, he says "Islam considers men and women equal." He adds that a woman might be "more qualified" for certain tasks than a man. Answering a question on his position on such controversial issues as human transplants, female circumcision, interests on deposits, and Jerusalem, he says he has never claimed to be "infallible" and that he always studies, weighs matters deeply, thinks, and consults with others before issuing any fatwa. He says he is prepared to change his view if others can persuade him, because we "are all searching for the truth." He concludes by praising President Husni Mubarak, whom he describes as farsighted and objective.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Reportedly Agrees To Release 500 Hamas Activists

MM1004153996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Apr 96 p 4

[Report by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza: "'Arafat Agrees To Release 500 Hamas Activists and Form a Committee To Supervise Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian sources revealed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that President Yasir 'Arafat has agreed to release some 500 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements detained in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] jails, including Shaykh Muhammad Sham'ah, one of the movement's leaders, in an initiative aimed at clearing the air between Palestinians and ensuring the success of the dialogues currently being held with the Palestinian factions and Hamas through various channels. It was announced yesterday that the Palestinian president has also decided to form a higher Palestinian committee to supervise this dialogue, entrusting its presidency to al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the PNA Presidential Council.

The sources expect the committee to start its contacts within the next few days with several left-wing Palestinian factions' leaders who have recently returned to the Palestinian territories, especially the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], with a view to preparing a document agreeing on the main principles governing Palestinian political action in this phase. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Calls For 'Stopping' Hamas Activities in Jordan

JN1004174796 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in Ramallah, West Bank]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has publicly accused the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement of declaring a war against and trying to topple the Palestinian National Authority.

Speaking at the Palestinian Legislative Council meeting in Ramallah today, 'Arafat said that the Hamas leadership is headquartered in the Jordanian capital and instructions and orders to the movement's members are issued there. 'Arafat called for stopping the Hamas Movement activities in Jordan.

'Arafat revealed to the council members a document prepared by Hamas in April 1995, including ways to confront and topple the Palestinian Authority.

'Arafat noted that four Islamic deputies launched a violent attack against the National Authority during a news conference they held in Gaza yesterday. Commenting on this development, 'Arafat said that the four deputies have thus violated the rules of parliamentary work.

A memorandum to this effect was submitted by the Palestinian public prosecutor and was read at the Legislative Council meeting today.

The council meeting was held in Ramallah today. It discussed a number of internal affairs. It is expected to resume meetings tomorrow.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Hamas 'Declared War' on PA, Blames Jordan

TA1004175196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has declared war on the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Speaking at the PA Council session in Ramallah today, 'Arafat said that Hamas' war on the PA aims to stop the negotiations between the PA and Israel and to pressure Israel to negotiate with Hamas. 'Arafat said that he has documents that confirm

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

his claims, and that testimonies of Hamas men who were interrogated by PA security personnel corroborate the facts. 'Arafat said that the Hamas leaders sit in Jordan and conduct the organization's activities. He accused Jordan of not doing enough to curb them.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Criticizes Jordan for 'Sheltering' Hamas Leaders

NC1004194996 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat criticized Jordan for sheltering Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders. Addressing the Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah today, 'Arafat angrily said that orders for suicide operations are issued from Jordan.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat postponed the formation of a Palestinian government for two weeks.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Asks For 2 More Weeks To Form New Cabinet

JN1004135596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] With the participation of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian Legislative Council will convene its second session at the premises of the Ministry of Education in Ramallah later today. The Council will debate the topics listed on its agenda, chief among which is the impact of the continued military and economic siege of the Palestinian territories imposed by the Israeli occupation troops.

The Council held its first session this morning. It reviewed the resolutions adopted at some of its previous sessions held in Ramallah last week. During the morning session, special Council committees were formed to examine special activities.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat asked the Council members to give him two more weeks to form a new cabinet.

Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Holds Second Session 10 Apr

JN1104073896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Legislative Council held its second session today to discuss the items remaining on its agenda. President Yasir 'Arafat attended the session.

At its first session this morning, the council discussed the issues of land confiscation and bypass roads. Deputy 'Ali al-Qawasimi spoke about the Israeli forces' confiscation of thousands of donums of Hebron and Halhul lands.

The council also talked about the Israeli checkpoint set up near Bayt Sahur, which hinders citizens' movement along the Wadi al-Nar road. The deputies unanimously stressed the need to confront the land confiscation policy and the Israeli Government's evasion over the implementation of the agreements signed with the PLO.

The council speaker tasked the political committee to draft letters on these issues to the two peace process cosponsors and the witnesses to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, calling on them to pressure the Israeli Government to end its encroachments and violations of the signed agreements.

The council also discussed a memorandum by the public prosecutor to the council on a news conference by Deputies Wajih Yaghi, Yusuf al-Shanti, Musa al-Za'but, and 'Imad al-Faluji, who slandered the security bodies and accused them of torturing detainees.

In his memorandum, the public prosecutor said that the four deputies violated parliamentary practices by not basing their action on complaints submitted by either the detainees or their relatives.

Many deputies objected to the submission of such a memorandum to the council, asking that it be first addressed to the executive authorities.

'Arafat suggested that the council deal with the memorandum, because a submission to the executive authorities necessitates lifting the immunity of the deputies who participated in the news conference.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Za'nun Views Agenda of Upcoming PNC Session

JN1004141596 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Statement by Salim al-Za'nun, PNC acting speaker, in Amman on 10 April — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was decided today that we will convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] on 22 April in Gaza. This will be an ordinary session, which means it will discuss more than 10 topics on the agenda.

One of these topics deals with legal amendments. The legal amendments article covers everything the PNC should do as regards amending the laws. If, under this article, the issue of amending the Palestine National Charter is raised, in light of the Oslo-2 agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians, then Article 33 of the Charter stipulates that a special PNC session must convene to discuss this subject. If the PNC feels that the Israelis have fulfilled the reciprocal promises in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Oslo-2 Agreement, such as withdrawal from Hebron and releasing prisoners, then it may be encouraged to decide to hold a special session after three or four days to discuss one topic only; namely, amending the charter or replacing it with a new charter that avoids the points which the Israelis complain about.

I wish to add that Israel has not yet approved the return of 86 PNC members. If no measures are taken to allow them to return three days before 22 April, then we will have to set a new date for the convening of the PNC.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Denies Land Confiscation Coordinated With PA

JN1004171996 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, denied statements by Israeli Government's Spokesman Shlomo Drur in which he declared that the confiscation of land is done in coordination with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Abu-Rudaynah emphasized that no such coordination exists.

In an exclusive statement to our radio, Abu-Rudanynah said that these confiscations are a breach of the agreements and a violation of the peace process. The president's adviser held the Israeli Government responsible for the consequences of such a policy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Algeria: Latest Issue of AL-HURRIYAH Banned

LD1004174296 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria the latest Arabic-language issue of AL-HURRIYAH was seized at the beginning of this week. The newspaper, which has not received any official notification, is part of the Actuelle press group, which also publishes LA NATION, a weekly that is also frequently banned by the authorities.

Egypt

Egypt: Opposition Parties Urge Hitting 'U.S. Interests' Over Libya

MM1104092296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Apr 96 p 6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo: "Egyptian Opposition Parties Urge Hitting U.S. Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian opposition parties have urged hitting U.S. interests in the Arab world, should "the United States carry out its threat of aggression against Libya." Egyptian opposition party leaders Dia' al-Din Dawud of the Nasirite Party, Mustafa Kamil Murad of the Liberal Party, Khalid Muhyi al-Din of the Unionist Party, and Ibrahim Shukri of the Labor Party, and Ibrahim Badrawi representing the Communists, issued a statement yesterday attacking U.S. policy in the region and its threats to hit Libya. The statement said that "some international efforts seeking to leave the U.S. sphere of influence are unable to lift the unjust blockade on Libya." It added: "We appeal to the Arab people to grasp the nature of the U.S. aggression and try to contain it by every possible means, including hitting U.S. interests in any Arab country, should the United States carry out its threat of aggression against Libya."

Egypt: Opposition Parties Criticize U.S. 'Threat' Against Libya

NC1104070796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—A statement issued by Egyptian opposition parties says the U.S. threat against Libya, claiming it has a plant manufacturing chemical weapons, is meant as a cover-up for the new strategic agreement between Israel and the United States. It also seeks to distract attention away from news of a nuclear leak from Israel's Dimona reactor, the statement added.

The statement, signed by the leaders of the Nasirite Democratic Party, National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, Labor Party, and Liberal Party, called on the Arab League and Arab governments to convince the United States that the Israeli nuclear threat is the real danger facing the peoples of this region.

Egypt: Cairo Confirms 'Divergence of Views' With U.S. on Sudan

MM1004171296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Apr 96 p 5

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo: "Egypt Admits That There Are Disagreements With the United States on the Nature of Sanctions Against Sudan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo has confirmed that there is a divergence of views with Washington on the nature of the sanctions to be imposed on Sudan because of its government's nonimplementation of Security Council Resolution 1044, welcomed the fact that the Sudanese official media praised Egypt's stand on the sanctions, and expressed the hope that this "would be a new lasting approach toward Egypt."

Egyptian informed sources told AL-HAYAH that consultations are still being held with the Security Council member states on the sanctions, and said that Russia, China, and France support the Egyptian position. It is a known fact that Cairo opposes sanctions that include a military embargo on Sudan, apparently for national security reasons, and also opposes an economic blockade "which would increase the Sudanese people's suffering."

Resolution 1044 calls on Sudan to hand over three Egyptian suspects in the assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa and to refrain from "supporting terrorism and sheltering its elements." Discussions are taking place at the Security Council on the draft resolution, which Egypt and Indonesia amended on behalf of the nonaligned states, with a view to avoiding imposing an embargo on the importation of arms and economic sanctions, in contrast to the U.S. position calling for tightening the sanctions. The (60-day) reprieve granted by the Security Council to Sudan to implement the resolution ended on 1 April 1996.

The Egyptian sources expressed the hope that "the Sudanese official media's new approach may be a new turning point reflecting the regime's position on improving relations," pointed out the necessary steps needed to achieve it, which include "handing over the three suspects and adopting a position on terrorism," and stressed that "the attempt on President Mubarak is an unforgivable crime."

The sources stressed that "there is no contradiction between wanting to avoid specific sanctions and the necessity for the Sudanese Government to implement

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Security Council resolution." They said that the Egyptian position is a message that the Sudanese Government still has the chance to comply with the Security Council resolution.

Egypt: Al-Baz Criticizes Turkish-Israeli 'Military Alliance'

NC1004211696 Cairo MENA in English 2000 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—The establishment of a partial or strategic military alliance between two non-Arab countries in the Middle East (Turkey and Israel) casts shadows or doubt that it is directed to Arab countries, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said.

In statements today marking Hilwan University's celebrations of the lapse of 40 years since Egyptian women obtained their political rights, al-Baz said such alliance could be used by Turkey as a deterrent factor for Arabs specially Syria and Iraq due to water and other problems between the three. It could also be used by Israel against Arab countries, he added.

No regional arrangements should be planned outside consultations between all forces in the region, he said. Egypt is contacting Turkey and will do the same with Israel to get to the bottom of the matter, al-Baz said, adding that he personally believes Turkey would reconsider that agreement in the interest of regional balance and security.

On President Husni Mubarak's initiative on clearing the Mideast region from weapons of mass destruction, al-Baz said that the world is heading towards banning nuclear weapons and that the ban should apply to all countries without exception, because, he said, exempting any state would disrupt security, stability and balance and would spawn a nuclear-arms race in the region.

Why should Israel be exclusively privileged to possess nuclear weapons? he asked. Egypt will not allow an Israeli nuclear edge in the region, he said, adding that Israel must enter serious negotiations with Egypt, at least at the multilateral level, to discuss problems related to security and disarmement.

It should also lay down a timetable to liquidate its nuclear program, he said.

The agreement to be signed in Cairo tomorrow, on clearing Africa from nuclear weapons and waste is a step towards rendering the Middle East a nuclear-free zone, al-Baz said.

Egypt: 'Terrorist Plot' Foiled; 245 Arrested

NC1004200996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA) — An official source at the Ministry of Interior has stated that the foiling of the terrorist plot that sought to revive or restructure the Repudiation and Renunciation Organization is considered one of the biggest security operations targeting the different wings of that organization since its appearance and involvement in kidnapping and assassinating Former Awqaf Minister Shaykh Muhammad Husayn al-Dhahabi in 1977.

The official added that the State Security detective teams dealt a heavy blow to the organization's groups at dawn today, and apprehended its leading figures and members — who were in possession of documents, organizational papers, and written leaflets that outlined the organization's thought, in addition to a number of firearms and knives and large sums of money. [passage omitted]

The official pointed out that the storming operations launched this morning in 17 governorates resulted in the apprehension of 245 organization members. [passage omitted]

The following was found on the arrested organization members: — firearms, including a Russian 12-mm weapon, a shotgun, and a pistol; — ammunition of various calibers; — a number of knives; — money estimated at 13,000 Egyptian pounds; — large amounts of printed material, organizational papers, and documents that outline the organization's thought, in addition to all the research conducted by the organization's executed leader, Shukri Ahmad Mustafa, on repudiation and confiscating the wealth of others.

The official explained that the criminal organization operated at both the local and international level. At the international level, fugitive terrorist Muhammad al-Amin 'Abd-al-Fattah, a graduate of the Faculty of Science in Alexandria, was in charge of international activity. He used to run his organizational activity from Jordan, with the help of 57 fugitive terrorists.

The fugitive terrorist leader also determined the tasks of the members of the leading group abroad — which operated in Arab and Western countries — ordering them to receive organization members who leave the country to expand the circle of the organization in the countries where they resided.

The official added that the necessary money was provided by certain commercial and economic projects abroad. A Jordanian money-changing firm and a Dutch

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

travel agency in The Hague were involved in this, he said. [passsage omitted]

The organization's activities were also financed locally by collecting subscriptions from organization members to establish a number of commercial projects to use as fronts for the financing operations inside and outside the country. Several means, particularly money changers, were used to launder the funds collected. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Al-Sharif on Council of Ministers Session Topics

NC1004180596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri today, the Council of Ministers discussed a number of reports on foreign and domestic policies.

Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said that Dr. al-Janzuri emphasized the policies announced by President Mubarak on several issues. Among these is Egypt's clear stand on Sudan, the need to maintain Sudan's territorial integrity, commitment to implementing Security Council resolutions, and the demand that Sudan hand over the perpetrators of the evil attack on President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa.

Dr. al-Janzuri also reiterated President Mubarak's announcement on the need to implement international agreements as regards the possible existence of a chemical factory in Libya — excluding prospects of a military confrontation.

The Council of Ministers reviewed reports of a radioactive leak from Israel's Dimona reactor and cooperation at the international level in this regard. The council also reviewed a report on military cooperation between certain countries in the Middle East, prospects for the formation of strategic alliances, and their danger to Egyptian and pan-Arab security.

The Council of Ministers stressed Egypt's clear position and its rejection of the policy of alliances and of every move conducive to an imbalance in security in the Middle East.

The council reviewed the outcome of talks President Mubarak held recently with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the results of President Mubarak's visit to Syria. It also reviewed the role of higher joint committees in boosting bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Arab countries.

The information minister said Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri briefed the cabinet on French President Jacques Chirac's recent successful visit to Egypt, his talks with President Mubarak, and the positive effects of these talks on cooperation between Egypt and France in the political, economic, and cultural spheres.

Minister al-Sharif added that the council then discussed a report on measures by European countries regarding mad cow disease. The council decided to maintain the ban on importing meat from Britain, and decided that the ban should apply to live cattle, frozen and processed meat, cowhides and organs, and British fodder. A ban on importing meat from European countries, with the exception of Britain, is to be lifted. Every imported shipment must be accompanied by health certificates noting that it is free of this disease. These certificates must be certified by officials in the exporting country and by the Egyptian Embassy. Shipments must also have certificates of origin from exporting countries.

It was also decided that regular reports will be submitted to the Council of Ministers on this issue and that Egyptian health and veterinary missions be sent abroad to inspect shipments bound for Egypt. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Writer Examines Reported U.S.-Israeli Pact

NC1004085496 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Apr 96 pp 1, 3

[Article by Ibrahim Nafi' from the "Calmly" column: "Peace of Nuclear Horror or Peace of Justice and Safety?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Middle East peace process has indeed received a heavy blow in the past few weeks in the wake of the suicide operations carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. During the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, Egypt worked, and considerably succeeded in collaboration with regional and international parties in softening the negative impacts of this blow. Egypt turned it into a new starting point by linking support for peace, the security of all the region's states without exception, and fighting terrorism.

However, it should be clear that the peace process has not reached its destination yet and that it is being subjected to severe risks, part of which already exist in the form of the Israeli oppression of the Palestinian people and the suspension of talks on the Syrian track. Other risks pose a long-term threat to the future of the region and the type of peace we are seeking. These are represented in the Israeli desire to use the circumstances resulting from the terrorist operations and the subsequent mass hysteria in Israel and the electoral situation there and in the United States to acquire strategic privileges that seriously upset the security balance in the Middle East. This imbalance, in itself, conflicts with a just and comprehensive peace.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

These risks are strongly demonstrated in reports circulating recently in the media and at official levels in Israel and the United States about a possible agreement the two sides might sign to develop their existing strategic cooperation into a defense pact, or a joint defense treaty expected to be signed during Peres' upcoming visit to Washington at the end of this month. Moreover, Israeli media sources have gone as far as saying that the defense pact will involve a secret document in which the United States recognizes Israel's right to maintain a strategic deterrent, in other words, military nuclear capabilities. If this intention is true, and many signs indicate it is, the Arab-Israeli peace process will have indeed been subjected to a painful, and maybe fatal blow. The reasons for this are numerous. I will sum them up in the following:

1. We are talking about a "new Middle East" based on development, economic cooperation, promotion of wealth, and about overcoming the sources of violence and backwardness. We seek to achieve that through multilaterals, economic summits, and partnerships with Europe. It is, therefore, unacceptable for a regional party, Israel, to set up major defense alliances that immediately encourage all the other parties to try to create their own defense alliances to counter it. This would divide the region into competing defense alliances, increase tension, enhance the prospects for conflict and violence, and take the region back to an Arab-Israeli war climate.

2. Setting up this defense pact in the reported manner, which guarantees Israeli supremacy indefinitely, ruins all the American attempts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world, including its insistence last year on the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], and almost bitterly ridicules the initiative put forward by former U.S. President George Bush. We assume that this initiative still represents the U.S. policy to curb armaments in the Middle East, the policy that includes among its priorities the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the region. The contradiction represented in Israel's and the United States' participation in the regional security and arms control committee in the multilaterals is absurd, because instead of guaranteeing the security of all the parties and controlling their armaments, they are pushing them toward an arms race involving the most destructive weapons.

3. This American support for Israel at this critical stage of negotiations cannot reassure Israel or urge it to make concessions as some American sources imply. Under the defense pact, it is more likely that Israel will grow more inflexible and more arrogant and hence destroy the entire peace process. As is clear from the American security support, Israel already has relations with the United States that are strong enough to guarantee its security—if this, rather than regional domination and hegemony, is what Israel really wants. The fact no one can miss is that relations between the two sides have become stronger and deeper since 1967. Starting with an American commitment to guarantee Israel's security, they developed into a U.S. commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative supremacy in relation to the region's countries collectively. Israel obtained sophisticated military technology, particularly regarding the air force and missiles. President Reagan's administration took a step forward in developing Israel's capabilities to guarantee that supremacy, particularly through joint manufacturing projects, including the manufacture of some components of American weapons in Israel and cooperation in the manufacture of the Israeli Arrow missiles. The process has continued in this direction since then. It was even accelerated during Clinton's administration with the adopting of the concept of "Israel's potential enemies," meaning Iran and the terrorist groups. Thanks to that concept, Israel for the first time acquired sophisticated American computer technology.

4. Even in terms of the Israeli nuclear weapons, non-clarity of the pact's geographical dimensions, and whether it includes Israel alone within the June 1967 borders in addition to the occupied Arab territories and territories that Israel claims are needed for preemptive operations, this U.S.-Israeli defense pact means that the United States totally disregards the Arab security requirements, especially threats represented by Israel's atomic capabilities. Israel's nuclear capabilities actually pose strategic threats that cannot be ignored.

These threats are represented in the following points: Israel's possession of nuclear weapons must be viewed in light of Israel's intentions to use these weapons or make threats with them. These advantages are always determined by Israel's domestic politics. A great portion of these politics includes a terrorist, radical right-wing trend that can reach power through violence or elections.

Indeed, some of these manifestations were recently apparent in the Israeli settlers' acts in the Palestinian territories and in the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. No doubt the presence of nuclear weapons in the hands of violent political forces is a grave threat to the security of Arab countries. — Arab countries cannot accept Israel's pretext that its nuclear weapons are essentially a deterrent force and that they are Israel's last means to maintain its survival. Deterrence can only exist when the parties concerned are on a par so a reciprocal deterrence can come about, in other words when other parties restrict the freedom of Israel's nuclear option.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

However, when there is a monopoly on nuclear weapons, Israel's decisionmaking becomes contingent only on Israeli intentions. Arab countries cannot rely on the soundness or peacefulness of these intentions or on Israel's continual adherence to the option of peace. Besides, there is no nation on earth that can depend for its security on others' intentions alone, without seeking to achieve its security by legitimate defensive means that deter any hostile intentions against it. —Israel's monopoly over nuclear weapons is occurring in the presence of a huge conventional Israeli war machine that is more than enough and to guarantee Israel's security. Indeed, this war machine has enabled Israel to attack Arab countries since its establishment, including its invasion of Lebanon and its continuous acts of aggression against Palestine. This war machine still enables Israel to carry out such acts. —The presence of Israel's nuclear weapons is the biggest explicit and legitimate motive for the spread of nuclear weapons in the entire region. It is also a motive for the region to engage in a race for weapons of mass destruction. Such a race threatens the stability of the whole region and destroys all possibilities for peace, as was the case when Iraq developed these kinds of weapons. It also creates prospects for Iran joining this race. —Israel's nuclear capabilities cannot be described as weapons for deterrence or for use as a last resort as Israel claims. The reason is that these weapons include low-caliber tactical capabilities used in mines and artillery. This means that they can be used in limited offensive operations, the decision about which can be made easily because they do not cause the same destruction and radiation as the strategic use of such weapons.

What is more important is that these weapons' capabilities greatly exceed any Israeli defense purposes.

According to estimates by (Shay Fildman), a renowned Israeli researcher at Tel Aviv University's (Yaffe) Center for Strategic Studies, Israel needs 30-40 nuclear warheads to return all the major Arab parties to the middle ages. Despite this, most of the world's conservative estimates confirm that Israel has about 200 nuclear warheads, thus exceeding by many degrees, any Israeli claims for defense. This presents all neighboring Arab countries with the danger of total destruction and exposes them to Israeli aggression.

—There is nothing to indicate that the structure of the Israeli forces contains a chain of command as far as the use of nuclear weapons is concerned. In all other nuclear states, the higher leadership has strict political control over the nuclear decision. Israel's vagueness about such a serious matter may, at times of crises and sharp tension, cause confusion with destructive results, such as accidental use of nuclear weapons or incidents where there is no decisive political decision. This becomes even more serious if we know that Israel has not always kept its nuclear weapons on the shelf, as it claims. It deployed them during the October 1993 war, during many other crises on the Golan front, and during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent developments.

—The possibility of incidents taking place is not confined to failure or possible mistakes in the relationship between the military and political leaderships. In the absence of international control on the Israeli nuclear facilities and their safety, radioactive leaks may occur as a result of technical faults or terrorist operations.

—Israel's nuclear superiority is accompanied by its possession of quantitatively and qualitatively superior conventional weapons, and its possession of other chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. Israel also has a monopoly on means of surveillance and operations management through satellites. It is known that Israel, although it signed the international treaty on chemical weapons, has so far not ratified it. Israel also did not sign the agreement on biological weapons, and its position on the NPT is well-known.

—Israel is largely using its possession of nuclear weapons to blackmail various international parties, especially the United States, to obtain military and technological assistance not available to any other country in the region.

—Israel's continued possession of nuclear weapons — even in peacetime — will mean a major security imbalance in the region. This will compel many forces to resist this situation through tools that nuclear weapons can do little to confront, as happened during the Palestinian intifadah and the suicide operations. Consequently, this may threaten the security of Israel itself and push the entire region into a cycle of violence, which the peace process is seeking to avoid.

For all these reasons, if reports about the "defensive" — or in fact the "offensive" — pact between the United States and Israel are true, and if reports that Israel's continued possession of nuclear weapons will be guaranteed are also true, the peace process will indeed be facing a real disaster, with consequences more serious than those of the recent terrorist operations. If peace cannot be established under the continued violence and terrorism practiced by irresponsible groups on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, it also cannot be established under the shadow of the Israeli nuclear terrorism or the flagrant imbalance of powers in the region. If no one can claim to be more eager than Egypt to achieve peace and combat terrorism, neither

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

can anyone claim to be more eager than Egypt to protect Egyptian and pan-Arab security.

Those who are playing with fire and threatening the dream of the region, including Israel, for development, progress, and economic cooperation will not only destroy what has been achieved over the past two decades, but will push the region into a hellish episode of new violence for decades to come.

This is what Israel and the United States should avoid if they are really serious in their intentions for peace in the region. This is also what all sides in the region should turn their attention to, should work with all their power to end and avoid, and should save the peace process from.

Libya

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Mubarak, al-Asad Over U.S. 'Insolence'

LD1004213396 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Proceeding from his pan-Arab role to confront the perils facing the Arab nation, and in view of the current increase in the U.S. insolence and boisterousness toward the Arab nation, following confirmation by the Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister that the first detachments of a U.S. task force including warplanes and 1,000 soldiers arrived in his country today, the brother leader of the revolution has had telephone conversations with Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the conversations, the brother leader reiterated his indignation at the U.S. insolent and boisterous behavior, which has spoiled the territories of the Arab nation, sullied its reputation, and curbed its free will.

The brother leader also reiterated that, no matter what level the insolence reaches, it will only lead to a revolution. Such boisterousness by America will surely bring closer the date of the all-conquering Arab revolution.

Libya: Political Affairs Editor on 'Falsehoods' of 'War Minister'

LD1004150296 Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American war minister [Secretary of Defense William Perry] was reported to have renewed his allegations and falsehoods against the Great Jamahiriyah, claiming that it is [words indistinct] which threatens what he caled peace and stability in the area.

The allegations were renewed in a lecture delivered in the American University of Howard in Washington last night.

The political affairs editor in the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY commented on the American allegations and falsehoods which reflect the continued American state of political deliriums and said: We are not anymore surprised for the mounting American campaign of falsehoods and vicious fab[illegible]cations, as long as the indicators of dangers caused by the Israeli nuclear radiation are mounting and as long as American voices are raised demanding the submission of the Israeli nuclear arsenal for international inspection and monitoring before it brings total annihilation to all Arab countries.

The editor said that such allegations consolidate the pre-intended American designs towards the entire world. It also epitomises the mounting degree of American insistence to provoke the feelings of the Arab nation masses which were panic stricken and moved in a unanimous manner expressing disgust towards the volume of allegations and the extent of fabrications which characterized the claims of the American minister regarding what he called, the Great Jamahiriyah's intention to construct a chemical factory. At the same time America knows quite well it is providing infinite support, technical and material, to the enemies of the Arab nation, and supplies them with the latest resources to develop their nuclear arsenal in a open manner, thus enabling the Israelis to become a muclear power in possession of the capacity to control the entire Arab homeland.

The Arab masses are aware that America signed a strategic agreement with their enemy and is establishing solid relations with the Israelis and is also practicing the worst form of double standards in all international arenas, as they are constantly beside the Israelis, whenever the issue concernes a fatal Arab cause.

The editor went on to say: As the American lies and fabrications have reached that extent, we have nothing but draw the attention of the American war minister towards the violent responses which were produced by his latest allegations against the Great Jamahiriyah, represented in the statements of President Husni Mubarak and President Chirac, in the joint press conference which they held during the recent visit of the French president to Cairo. We also draw his attention to the French Foreign Ministry spokesman and the statement of the Egyptian foreign minister 'Amr Musa which refuted the American allegations concerning information or evidence in this respect. Furthermore, we draw his attention to the extreme state of disgust which dominated various prominent Arab figures and various political organizations and popular forces across

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Arab homeland. All of these ridiculed the American falsehoods and snubbed the American fabrications and deceptions practiced by American policies against the Arab nation. All these parties have stated in spontaneous responses that the American allegations are American pretexts intended to cover-up the mounting awareness in the Arab homeland regarding th dangers of the Israeli nuclear arsenal and the nuclear radio-active leakage from Israeli reactors.

The editor indicated that the reference made by the American minister in his lecture to the so-called Lockerbie case [words indistinct] the editor questioned the reasons behind this deliberate [word indistinct] of all papers at one time. All that signifies an increase in the volume of deception and further widening for the cover-up ring in the American position which is totally biased towards the Israeli enemy in every respect.

The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY political affairs editor called on all Arab citizens to read the contents of the American deputy secretary of state for the Middle East and South East Asia, who made statement to the London based newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT two days ago, and the statement of the American ambassador to the Israeli enemy in the seminar held by Washington Institute for the Middle Eastern policy recently over the challenges to American interests in the Middle East. This will help the easy discovery that the American political strategic priorities are against the Arab nation. In fact the American persistence and the American vicious intentions against the Arab nation are limitless. The American Israeli terrorist designs will not recede until the Israelis are in total charge of the area and their devilish octopus covers every part of the Arab homeland. The Arab nationals will discover that the Libyan Arab position is the thing which upsets the evil process of the Americans and the Israelis in this respect. This is the voice which the two American officials describe as obstruction for their evil designs against the Arab nation and blocks the implementation of their vicious intentions which aim at making the Israelis get the upper hand in the area, and the guarantee of the flow of Arab oil to the West with the most mediocre of prices and accordingly controlling every part of the Arab homeland and seizing its resources and extorting its wealth.

The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY political affairs editor concluded his comment by confirming that every free Arab voice has declared the Arab right and dealt a blow to the American war minister and snubbed his recent allegations against the Great Jamahiriyah. This contributes to more national actions towards the triumph of the fatal Arab causes and the confrontation of this American and Israeli lunatic tyranny, which coincides with the spread of mad-cow disease around Western Europe. This is also a reason for more actions towards the revival of the determination of the Arab nation masses to express in a stronger manner the real Arab Jamahiriyah and unionist reaction towards the American covetting and the israeli American persistence against [words indistinct] Arabs, the Arab national awareness and Arab will.

Libya: Paper Assails U.S. Defense Secretary's 'Hostile' Remarks

LD1004134496 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 10 Apr (JANA) — The AL-SHAMS newspaper issued here has stressed that America has no shame. The paper was referring to hostile remarks made in Cairo recently by the U.S. Defense Secretary [William Perry] against the Great Jamahiriyah.

In an article published today, the paper said that the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM suppressed its anger, like other newspapers, in line with decorum and the laws of hospitality. The U.S. minister, however, is well aware that he is minister of a state and not a minister of colonies and that he was in an independent country. However, the paper added, he behaved like a minister of colonies with an outdated piratical mentality.

AL-SHAMS newspaper asserted that Egypt is an Arab country that is too big to be exploited against its sister Arab countries, but the U.S. minister behaved shamelessly in representing his country's policy, which does not respect the sovereignty and independence of other countries and does not know the meaning of friendship.

Mauritania

Mauritania: Interior Minister Imposes 3-Month Ban on Newspaper

AB1004211996 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Mauritania, senatorial elections are due to be held on 12 April, and the authorities have already adopted a tough stance. The interior minister has banned the publication and distribution of MAURITANIE NOUVELLE throughout the country for a period of three months. The authorities are accusing the newspaper of sowing confusion in the minds of people. The newspaper's publishing manager, Raoul Saleck, has denied the allegations. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sudan

Sudan: Radio Reports on Signing of Government-Rebel Peace Accord

EA1104095596 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A political charter for peace was signed at the Republican Palace in Khartoum this evening between the government and the Southern Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM] and [a faction] of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]. Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, first vice president of the Republic, signed on behalf of the government. Dr. Riak Machar [Teny Dhurgon] signed on behalf of the SSIM, while Kerubino Kuanyin [Bol] signed on behalf of the SPLM. The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, as well as senior state officials and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Khartoum.

The charter mentioned the affirmation of the parties that a peaceful and political solution to the southern problem was the sole means for establishing peace. The three parties affirmed the need for the preservation of national unity, the protection of Sudan and joint action toward achieving development in areas affected by the war in the south. The political charter also provided for holding a referendum as a means of bringing the aspirations of the citizens in the south to realization following the achievement of comprehensive peace and a reasonable degree of development during the transitional period, in addition to the establishment of a coordination council in the southern states to follow up the implementation of clauses of the agreement. The charter affirmed that the Islamic shari'ah and traditions would be the source of legislation, while the southern states retained the right to enact special legislation to complement the federal law.

Addressing those attending the ceremony, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, said: By this agreement the sons of Sudan turn over a bitter page. He said: This agreement is the fruit of the efforts of the National Salvation Revolution and its endeavors toward achieving peace since its inception in 1989. He commended the brave decision taken by Machar and Kerubino to return to the homeland and sign the agreement. He said: the principles of the political charter for peace constitute a strong impetus in the peace march.

Mr. Kerubino Kuanyin, the chairman of the SPLM, also spoke. He declared that the coming stage would be one of building the country under national unity. He said: Our efforts should be concerted to achieve development in the south.

Dr. Riak Machar, the leader of the SSIM, said: the time has come for all of us to work for true peace. He added that the consequences of the war should be dealt with by the joint efforts of the parties which signed the charter to confirm solidarity in solving the issues of the homeland.

Sudan: Iraqi Businessman Involved in Arms Purchases Freed

NC1004145096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 10 Apr (MENA)—MENA's correspondent in Khartoum has learned that the Sudanese security authorities released Iraqi businessman Saqr Quraysh, after Sudanese Public Prosecutor Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim intervened with his powers.

Close sources said the release came after the Iraqi national made a financial settlement, paying the amount mentioned in the charges, estimated at 13 billion Sudanese pounds.

The Iraqi man supervised arms purchases for the Sudanese Government through the al-Nilayn, Gharb al-Sudan, and the National Omm Durman banks, but caused huge financial losses for these banks. The Sudanese Central Bank ordered that officials of the three banks be investigated on charges of squandering customers' deposits and causing bankruptcy. But, according to the same sources, the Sudanese bank came under pressure and allowed the three banks to resume operations.

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: Polisario Representative—UN Unable To Hold Referendum

LD1104095196 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The solidarity days with the Saharan people concluded last night after a week of activities. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

On the sidelines of these solidarity events, Ahmed Boukhari, the representative to the United Nations of Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], gave an exclusive interview to APS in which he stated that the United Nations is incapable of organizing a free referendum in Western Sahara. The Saharan official attributed this to a lack of toughness toward the other side [Morocco] that is obstructing the conditions which would allow for the organization of a just and free referendum in Western Sahara.

Mr. Boukhari expressed his hope that Morocco would change its position toward the issue of the identification of Saharan voters, or toward the organization of direct talks to push the issue forward. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bahrain

Bahrain: 'Perpetrators' of 7 Apr Arson Attacks Arrested

JN1004135196 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1150 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 10 Apr (WAKH)—WAKH has learned that the security organs have arrested the perpetrators of arson attacks on a number of stores in the Sheraton Commercial Center on Sunday, 7 April. The news agency noted that the three suspects are being interrogated, adding that the citizens' participation in identifying the suspects played an important role in helping the security organs to swifty apprehend the suspects.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Turkish Envoy Questioned on Military Accord With Israel

LD1004192196 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1830 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Apr (KUNA) — Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin had a meeting today with Turkey's ambassador to Kuwait, Mehmet Ezer. They discussed bilateral relations and developments in the region.

An official source at the ministry told the Kuwaiti news agency that, during the meeting, the Kuwaiti side expressed its interest in the details of the recent Turkish-Israeli agreement and the extent of its repercussions on the peace process.

In this context, al-Shahin stressed the need to steer all efforts to establish comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

The Turkish ambassador affirmed that the agreement will have no effect on the peace process, pointing out that it is a bilateral agreement and that it is not directed against a third party. [passage omitted]

Kuwait: Foreign Minister Interviewed on Israel, Jordan, Iraq

NC1004123096 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
8 Apr 96 pp 25-27

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Hasan Sabra in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sabra] Why is Lebanon not a member of the Damascus Declaration states?

[Al-Sabah] Relations between Kuwait and Lebanon are stronger than any pact. The Kuwaitis hold Lebanon in high esteem. At any rate, the Damascus Declaration pact is now among the Arab League documents, and anyone willing to join can do so. The Arab Gulf states, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon are in political harmony; they represent a mass that is not in incompatible with the Arab League, which will remain the mother entity and the term of reference for all the Arabs. We will do nothing that conflicts with the Arab League Charter. The League is an umbrella for all the Arabs, and we will not dispense with it. Even in our differences, it remains our umbrella.

[Sabra] Mr. minister, is this true despite all the Zionist enemy attempts to infiltrate the Gulf Cooperation Council states?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait's position is solid and unwavering. We will not receive any Israeli, and we will not establish any relationship with Israel except after the Syrian and Lebanese territories have been liberated and a just and comprehensive peace has been established.

[Sabra] Did you hear what Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said in his joint news conference with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday?

[Al-Sabah] He said the door is still open.

[Sabra] Yes, but he said the door is getting narrower, and that we need a new approach.

[Al-Sabah] He said the door is still open. I believe that the more acute the crisis gets, the closer it will come to a solution. I think the current political and security escalation indicates that something new, promising detente and solutions, is coming.

[Sabra] Does this mean that something will happen on the Syrian-Zionist track?

[Al-Sabah] Yes, but after the Israeli elections and before the U.S. elections. Perhaps the achievement of new breakthroughs now, when the U.S. elections date is still distant, will not prove useful to the U.S. Administration, as the American voters will forget these achievements when the time for elections comes. The U.S. Administration wants breakthroughs to be made one or two months before the elections so as to employ them for election purposes. And from now until the Israeli elections, the U.S. Administration will continue to support Shim'on Peres because it believes that peace would be delayed under a Likud government.

[Sabra] Does this mean that the United States, which arranged the Sharm al-Shaykh summit to boost Peres' status, is facilitating Peres' infiltrations of some Gulf states?

[Al-Sabah] It is you who are saying this.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Sabra] Speaking of the infiltrations, it is said that Jordan is facilitating this to serve Israel. What do you think?

[Al-Sabah] I know nothing about this. I do not think this is true. Anyway, Jordan established relations with Israel and that was it.

[Sabra] I wish this was it. But Jordan is not content with only this; it wants to bring Iraq toward Israel by fragmenting the former.

[Al-Sabah] These are conclusions by the press to which we are not committed. There is an agreement between Jordan and Israel, and this is the limit of the Jordanian role, nothing more.

[Sabra] But permit me, Mr. Minister, to say that we heard you speaking before the National Assembly yesterday about the normalization of relations with Jordan. You said that Jordan is helping to bring down the Iraqi regime and this is something positive. Do you have the same view of the Iraqi opposition now meeting in Damascus?

[Al-Sabah] First, I said in the National Assembly that my enemy's enemy is my friend. We look at the Iraqi people completely differently from the way we look at the regime. We believe that this people is oppressed by its ruler. We have supported it on a humanitarian, Arab, and Islamic basis and sent aid to the Iraqis in Iran, Jordan, and northern Iraq through the Kuwaiti Red Crescent. Iraq, its people, and its state will remain. But the regime is temporary. The people are the victims of this regime and we stand with them.

[Sabra] What about the opposition groups' conference in Damascus?

[Al-Sabah] We hope that the Iraqi opposition groups meeting in Damascus will reach a formula for accord with all the Iraqi opposition so as to bring down the regime in Baghdad.

[Sabra] Relations with Yemen alternate between a statement denied by President Salih — but which is completely true as we heard it on a tape — and Yemeni officials' statements that Kuwait is backing Eritrea. What is the problem with Sanaa?

[Al-Sabah] Everyone knows that our brothers in Yemen hurt us with their stand favoring the Iraqi regime when the latter invaded our country. But there are relations now with Yemen and the two countries' have embassies in each other's country. We were accused by our brothers of helping the southern Yemenis and of paying 30 million dinars to the south during the 1994 war. We proved to them that this was not true. Our relations with the Yemeni people are good. What Kuwait has given to Yemen is not meant to make the latter feel indebted to us. We built the most important hospital in Yemen and a military college without even building a similar one in Kuwait. At any rate, these are our people and brothers. [United Arab Emirates President] Shaykh Zayid told us that we were helping the southerners. We told him that what happened was that a Yemeni ambassador came and asked for political asylum. We took him as a guest and not a politician. We gave him $10,000 in assistance. I contacted Shaykh Hamdan and told him: Tell your father what happened. As for the claims that Kuwait helped Eritrea occupy al-Hanish island, it is as they say in your country whenever something happens: Blame others.

[Sabra] And the normalization of relations with Yemen?

[Al-Sabah] Everything is possible.

[Sabra] What about President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's interview with a Kuwaiti paper which shows him gloating over Kuwait's misfortune?

[Al-Sabah] This is the sensational press. The only thing that happened was that the correspondent asked him whether a sick person needs "a pat on the back," and President Salih replied that there is no objection if you want me to pat his back. That's all there is to it.

[Sabra] It is the press' fault then?

[Al-Sabah] We wish the journalists would play a role in bringing the Arabs' views closer and not escalate and incite disputes.

[Sabra] Mr. Minister, if all Arab politicians are like your excellency, then the journalists' source of news would be cut off.

[Al-Sabah] We like the press to play its role as a messenger for all the Arabs.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Characteristics of Reform Movement Outlined

MM1004133596 London AL-ISLAH in Arabic 1 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed article from Bulletin No. 3 issued by the Islamic Reform Movement: "Who Are We? Part 2" — received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Text] An observer of the awakening course in the Arabian Peninsula would notice that it has certain characteristics giving it a pioneering nature in pursuit of the cause. Despite the numerous participants in the reform plan and their different areas and lines in the peninsula, the course has been to a large extent

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

united, indicating a tacit agreement on specific policies in addressing issues of the movement and the call.

The first noticeable characteristic of the course is that the reform plan is a religious plan in the sense that all the aims stated in that plan are meant to consolidate God's religion in the land, seek to underline what is good and what is evil, raise the teachings of Islam, promote justice, and end injustice. Everything in the plan about the defense of national and individual rights is part of the Shari'ah stipulations which every group of believers should seek to fulfill and sacrifice for. All the demands made throughout the phases of the course are demands based on Shari'ah goals, and the call for them is in fact a call for Islam by the same token. The inclusion of issues of humane treatment and defense of human rights in the reform message are actually of the essence of Islamic teachings. The call for honesty in selling and buying and the severe warnings to those who fiddle the scales was a part of the Mecca verses: "Woe to those that deal in fraud, those who, when they have to receive by measure from men, exact full measure, but when they have to give by measure or weight to men, give less than is due." [Koranic verse]

On the defense of legitimate rights, the Koran also links the fight for God with the fight for the salvation of the oppressed. "Why do you not fight for God and the oppressed men, women, and children who are helpless and cannot find their way?" [Koranic verse] That means that the religious nature of the message commits it to the adoption of social, judicial, and economic issues because that is a part of the firm religious instructions in the Koran and in the Prophet's teachings.

The second characteristic is that the entire plan is governed by the Shari'ah in whole and in part as far as policy is concerned, since there is no aim, means, or policy that is not based on the Shari'ah. The Shari'ah is not a sign or slogan to hang everything on, but rather a specific understanding of what is in the Koran and in the prophet's teachings and of what was learned, understood, interpreted, and derived in a program based on the methods and perceptions of the first generation as well as the views of the renowned Islamic Ulema known to belong to that blessed march. This does not mean that everything attributed to that plan is an absolute right. What is meant is that the line on which it was based is a sound one. Part of that line is confirmation of fallibility and accountability of everyone for what he says, except what stands as infallible. The Shari'ah evidence that is in the Koran or the Prophet's teachings is upheld. Everything else may be questioned. If the plan is to be completed and if it is to complete its course, then there must be commitment to the course without any courtesy or consideration at the expense of the course, even if there seemed to be some advantage or benefit in such consideration. There can be no failure or leniency on the cause of the course. Any departure from the course would be exposed with extreme ease because of the sensitivity of the Islamic trend in the peninsula about that issue. Commitment to the course is noticeably compound in the sense that it applies to all matters including faith, custom, and conduct at individual, society, and state levels. The course has managed to rise above two kinds of deviation: The first is the deviation of the al-Jamiyah group which claims to take a strict stand on adherence to the course but completely freezes it and turns it upside down when dealing with the ruler. The second deviation is that of those who are strict on application of the course to the case of the ruler but are lenient in its application to issues of faith, worship, and conduct.

The third characteristic is commitment to the ulema's leadership, keeping them as a pioneering symbol and social example. "Ulema" [Islamic scholars] does not mean everyone carrying such a label. It means the ulema who preach their knowledge and are willing to suffer in support of that cause. They are a known group of ulema, young and old who have young hearts and who, by God's will, have thousands upon thousands of followers, pupils, and advocates. That is why it is noticeable in the [Arabian] Peninsula that despite the social pressure and the regime's attempt to remove these great symbols from the arena by means of detention or siege, the zealous youth have not raised their heads in pursuit of leadership or rivalry with these leaders. In fact, many university professors who are not considered to be ulema and who have greatly contributed to the awakening plans did not wish to encroach upon the ulema and just acted as ministers or ambassadors for the legitimate ulema leadership, and were eager to play the role of advisers, researchers, or representatives of these ulema. That quality was one of the causes of the youth's discipline and their refraining from tackling events with mere abstract zeal, emotionalism, or human anger. The youth remained disciplined to a large extent, adhering to the ulema's leadership and guidance.

The fourth characteristic is concentration on the essence and the facts, minimizing the role of slogans and banners. Although slogans are important and useful, they should not exceed their role of being one facet of the facts. What has distinguished the awakening march is its weight and extensive message. If one examines the contributions made by the awakening's ulema over some years in the form of lectures, lessons, and activities one would see a great amount of intellectual, religious, and cultural contributions covering every social, political, and economic issue one can think of. This characteris-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

tic was especially manifest in some of the awakening's programs, so much so that they appeared to be a concentration of all the awakening's work in one action, as in the case of the advice memorandum which clearly projected all these facts. That is why you find that the members of this course are not very pleased with people who very frequently repeat slogans without facts to back them up, and they view with suspicion those who carry placards without the essence for which such placards are raised.

The fifth characteristic is realism and the ability to cope with circumstances and events and to influence them by directly addressing them and by directly exploiting the social and cultural elements and at the same time avoiding theoretical suggestions and lack of realism through proposals which, in human common sense, are impossible to fulfill. The most important reason for the success of the course is that it operated under the universal laws imposed by God on societies and states which no human being can overlook or lag behind. The awakening plan activists, however, have, thanks be to God, managed to influence and make events through these laws and not to be mere elements in events made by others. The course workers followed that method and absorbed the issue of realism and a phased approach and it became one of their axioms to denounce those who overlook reality and deal with society and with history on the basis of certain theories and philosophies, and also to denounce those who stay at home waiting for the Messiah or for Christ to appear.

These are the main characteristics of the course. There certainly are other characteristics and qualities. The course will remain a special brand that absorbs its own people and excludes deviant intruders. To know the policy of the Islamic Reform Movement one does not have to stray from this context or surpass these policies.

Saudi Arabia: Article Views Prospects for Religious Reform

MS1104105596 London THE GUARDIAN in English 11 Apr 96 p 13

[Report by David Hirst: "Saudi Reformers Fight Culture of Orthodoxy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Telephone a so-called Westernised liberal and his wife asks you: "Could you wait five minutes? he's praying."

In the middle of an interview in a large hotel, a newspaper columnist gets down on the carpet at afternoon prayer time. A former minister announces: "Saudi Arabia should be the best country in the world because God has given it two riches, oil and the Sharia [Holy Law], the only law which goes with the true nature of mankind."

If Saudi Arabia needs anything, it is to get away from God — or at least from the earthly version of his will which Saudi theocracy ostensibly embodies more perfectly than any other Muslim state.

In a land where God is everywhere — or rather where the men of God make their business to ensure that he is — reformers face difficult dilemmas.

In a society where business enjoys strong religious sanction, a businessman perhaps has more right than others to argue that Islam, as practise here, is actually inimical to it.

"Islam, Islam, Islam," he said. "We are saturated with it. It was useful when we exploited it in the Arab cold war against the godless creeds of Nasserism, Ba'athism, communism. It did little harm during the boom days when we had full employment for everyone, including those who lengthened their beards, shortened their robes, and told us they were better Muslims than we are.

"Now it's different. We face real, contemporary issues — unemployment and falling living standards. It's not just a question of spending less on Islam, on all those mosques. It's the way our Islam affects our whole mentality — it's that which costs billions. We must learn to think in non-traditional ways, develop a proper work ethic.

"We don't want people who demand time off to pray, but only show up when they feel like it, or say they are late because they had to take their children to school or to the doctor because their wives cannot drive.

"Of course, if our theologians — the most ignorant people in this country — let women drive, we could dispose of the 400,000 expatriates who do it for them. That would save a lot of money and make it easier for women to work — if our theologians would let them do that too."

The pressure for reform immediately runs into opposition from those who say that there should be more God, not less. They are much more powerful than the reformists because they can, and occasionally do, brand anyone they disagree with as an apostate. "The first rule of reformers," said one, "is to de-emphasise Islam in the name of Islam."

That is no problem for moderate Islamists. They believe that the Sharia should remain the foundation of the system, but that the gates of *Ijtihad* — interpretation — are open and that, through interpretation, scholars

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

can determine the "higher purposes" of the Sharia in ways that adapt eternal principles to a particular time and place.

Nor is it much of a problem for Westernised Saudi liberals. They know that they cannot go too far and too fast against the prevailing orthodoxy. "I am a drinker," said one, "but I don't expect, or want, bars in Saudi Arabia — not yet."

But it is a problem for the extremists, and in Saudi Arabia extremism is far closer to the norm than in any other Muslim country. It is found, on the one hand, in the official clerical establishment — Shaykh Bin-Baz and his Council of Senior Scholars, who furnish the House of Sa'ud with religious legitimacy — and, on the other, in their mirror-image, the Islamist opposition which contests that legitimacy.

Both groups are Salafis — those who seek inspiration from the earliest days of Islam. Shaykh Bin-Baz thinks the gates of Ijtihad closed nearly 700 years ago. He thinks that only if a ruler does something openly blasphemous, like stopping people from praying, do the people have the right to resist him, and then only if he decides they have the right; otherwise they are guilty of *Fitna* — sedition.

On the House of Sa'ud's behalf, Shaykh Bin-Baz upholds the existing order in great things and small. He does this by his state-directed interpretations of the Saudi "constitution" — which is no more nor less than "God's Holy Book and his Prophet's Tradition" — and in the petty dispensations of what one liberal calls idiot Islam. One pronouncement last month was that high heels are abhorrent to Islam because of the "deception" of making women taller than they are.

Extreme, establishment Islam does give ground where it must. Sometimes technology is irresistible. Shaykh Bin-Baz's predecessors once saw the radio, then television, as works of the devil that could be turned to godly purposes.

Now he faces the Internet. He knows that cyberspace is rife with insults to Islam, and that the London based dissident, Mohammed al-Mas'ari uses it for his polemics against the regime. But let us, pleads the man who is trying to get his country on-line, use the Internet "to carry the true message of Islam to every corner of the earth".

The payment of interest in banks, which Shaykh Bin-Baz calls "war on God", is a de facto reality which some princes want made de jure.

The judiciary is one of the most backward institutions and the religious establishment which controls it keeps it that way. It has likewise foiled an attempt to permit women to run kindergartens, for fear that would lead to the abomination of desegregated education.

There is one issue of such fundamental importance to the House of Sa'ud that the men of God would never, on their own, venture an opinion about it. That is the role of Shoura — consultation which has troubled Muslims since the Prophet's time.

The Consultative Council which King Fahd recently set up is packed with very qualified people of a liberal bias, but it has the powers of a "flock of sheep" — said a critic briefly imprisoned for saying so.

Where the House of Sa'ud stands on reforms is always crucial, and likely to be determined by its estimation of its own prestige.

"Our rulers panic," said a liberal critic, "at the very idea of devolving power. They do so all the more when they know — as King Fahd does — that the people don't think much of their Muslim credentials."

In other words, King Fahd feels weak because he is corrupt. He compensates by out-Islaming the Islamists, but in outward observance only. He gives new cars to the Mutawwas, the hated "religious police", to enforce the veil in shopping malls. He leaves Shaykh Bin-Baz free to promulgate his "idiot Islam" and counts on him to pronounce the ruling family's more troublesome opponents "seditious".

By the criteria of conviction and ethics, Crown Prince 'Abdallah is almost universally seen as a better Muslim than his brother — and, many would add, than the vocal dissident Mr Mas'ari too.

When and if Crown Prince 'Abdallah takes the throne, by standing up to the corrupt and the reactionary, the "bad Muslims" in his own camp, he would win the support of the "good Muslims" in the opposition camp — moderate Islamists who fear their extremist brethren almost as much as the liberals, or the House of Sa'ud itself.

Yemen

Yemen: 'Intensified Military Preparations' in al-Hadidah

MM1104132296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Apr 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Sanaa: "Yemeni Military Preparations in Anticipation of Failure of French Mediation Efforts With Eritrea"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Informed sources in Sanaa revealed yesterday that "the city of al-Hadidah is witnessing intensified military preparations." Al-Hadidah,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

which is also a major port, is situated to the northeast of Aden and close to al-Hanish al-Kubra island, which was invaded by Eritrean forces in mid-December 1995.

The sources said that "the preparations, which involve the Air Force and the Navy, were undertaken in anticipation of any situation that might arise should Eritrea reject the French mediation, agreed by Yemen following the failure of the Ethiopian and Egyptian mediations." They added that "Yemen will not resort to force to restore its sovereignty over the islands unless it is forced to do so, and after all mediations have failed, in order to avoid any tension in the region." [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: Oil-for-Food Talks Said 'Close to Agreement'

MM1004153096 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Apr 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham: "Iraq and United Nations Close to Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — The Iraqi Government has agreed to separate the authority for the purchase of food for the three northern governorates from the authority for the purchase of other medical supplies earmarked for the Kurds. That has brought the negotiations on ways of implementing the "oil for food" formula under Resolution 986 close to agreement, though still depending on the higher political decisions of Baghdad and the capitals of the influential states in the Security Council.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi delegation negotiating with the UN General Secretariat, has told AL-HAYAH that separation of the powers for the purchase of food from the powers for the purchase of medical items is acceptable to Iraq and "we are satisfied with the separation." He added: "There is no objection to the purchase by the UN humanitarian program agencies in the north of medical equipment such as equipment for water purification, beds for hospitals, and necessary educational items for schools, in coordination with us. And there is no objection to the program providing these supplies directly."

That, he said, "is not an innovation or anything new." He said that the UN program is doing that now.

The Iraqi position is of special importance because the "oil for food" negotiations had completed the major part of the draft "memorandum of understanding" and stumbled over the issues of purchase authority and distribution of other medical supplies to the value of $130-150 million of the Iraqi oil royalties allocated for the Kurds in the north under Resolution 986. The resolution allows the Iraqi Government to sell $1 billion worth of oil every 90 days for six months to meet the pressing humanitarian needs in Iraq.

The Iraqi Government had insisted that it should have the purchase authority and that it was not possible to deduct the portion allocated for the three northern provinces and place it at the disposal of the UN program agencies independently of the central government. Baghdad saw any agreement to the deduction of the cash value as an agreement to separate the fait accompli in the north from the rest of Iraq and as an infringement of Iraq's sovereignty over all parts of the country.

However, the influential Western states in the Security Council, especially the United States and Britain, interpret Resolution 986 as a resolution giving the Iraqi Government the authority to purchase food, medicines, and medical supplies for Iraq with the exception of the three northern governorates of Dahuk, Irbil, and al-Sulaymaniyah in view of the "extraordinary" situation there.

The proposal calling for the separation of the authority to purchase food from the authority to purchase medical items may be acceptable to the United States and Britain. An informed Western source said "we have no problem" with such a formula which was proposed by the General Secretariat to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of agreement.

Under that formula, which is still under discussion and subject to scrutiny of details, the Iraqi Government would purchase the food and provide what is allocated for the three governorates either directly or through dealers, but the problem still lies in Baghdad's wish to use the "supply ration card" whereas the United Nations wants the UN humanitarian program agencies in northern Iraq to purchase the food needs from the Iraqi Government according to the requirements in the north, and to have the program distribute it to the governorates.

While stressing the "principle that Iraq carries out the purchase operation," al-Anbari explained the Iraqi position by saying: "As the Iraqi Government, we accept the allocation of the sum ($130-150 million) for the north and we agree to the UN program agencies' supervision of the distribution." He added: "There was some misunderstanding in the past on the question of distribution. The Iraqi Government is not exercising its authority in the three governorates now and we have no problem with the UN program agencies undertaking the distribution in cooperation with the sellers as a whole." He added that the current problem is about "the method of distribution not the principle."

As regards medicines, al-Anbari emphasized that "there is no problem" in connection with that matter "because medicine is distributed to the hospitals not to individuals, and there is cooperation with the hospitals in the north. There is no problem in that respect."

That leaves the authority for the purchase of other health-related materials such as heavy equipment for the purification of water and equipment for hospitals and schools. Al-Anbari stressed that "there is no objection to the UN program purchasing these items in coordination with us."

Al-Anbari described the problem of the purchases and distribution of the allocations for the three northern governorates as a "fabricated problem" but he avoided expressing positive or negative expectations about the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

current round of negotiations because of the political decisions required.

Al-Anbari described the first session of the third round of negotiations which began yesterday as having "an atmosphere of optimism." It was agreed to form a team of experts from both sides to discuss the issues of purchase and distribution "from the angle of procedures, not substance."

It was decided to hold the second session yesterday, Tuesday, evening to hear the experts' report. Yesterday morning al-Anbari said, "let us wait and see. matters may be resolved or they may become more complicated."

According to sources close to the negotiations at the United Nations Secretariat, "there is a positive development in the Iraqi position, and we hope that the positive spirit will continue in the current negotiations and at the technical level too."

The sources confirmed that "the General Secretariat has no objection to the agencies program purchasing the medical equipment in consultation with the Iraqi Government," and that the General Secretariat has no objection to the Iraqi Government having the "authority to purchase food for the northern provinces."

The informed sources said that the experts are studying the "purchase and distribution plan" from the angles of practicality, details, and procedure and that the results of the technical talks are important for the clarification of positions in detail.

The informed sources also said that the General Secretariat "sees in the Iraqi position a positive sign and development which could move the negotiations forward."

Iraq: Oil Talks Reportedly Draw Butrus-Ghali's 'Personal Interest'

JN1004195796 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN and Iraqi delegations held a new working session today within the series of technical dialogue sessions as part of the third round to discuss technical problems related to the issue of the oil in exchange for food, medicine, and other basic needs of the Iraqi people.

UN sources told the INA correspondent in New York that the dialogue achieved progress in tackling issues presented in this round. The sources expect the next two days to witness additional progress toward an agreement on what the two delegations are discussing in this round. The two delegations are expected to hold another session at a late hour tonight, Baghdad time.

The second round of talks which the two delegations held yesterday afternoon, was dedicated to learning about the results of a meeting held by experts of both sides earlier yesterday with the participation of the members of the two delegations who are experts on trade, medical, oil, and industrial issues.

The INA correspondent says that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is closely following the dialogue's developments. He held a meeting last night with his legal adviser Hans Corell, who is heading the UN General Secretariat's delegation in the dialogue with Iraq.

Media sources at the United Nations noticed that during the current round of dialogue, the UN secretary general gave obvious momentum to the dialogue, more than he gave during the previous rounds. Moreover, the secretary general held many meetings with his legal adviser, Corell. UN sources noted that since his return from his Asian tour, Dr. Butrus-Ghali has held four meetings with Hans Corell. The first meeting between the two men last Sunday [7 April] lasted for several hours. At least two of these meetings were not confined to the secretary general and his legal adviser but involved a large number of UN General Secretariat officials and experts.

Yesterday, the United Nations renewed its optimism that an agreement with Iraq will be reached on the exchange of oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs.

UN Spokesperson Sylvana Foa said yesterday that the secretary general is optimistic that an agreement will be reached and is showing personal interest in the current dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations.

Iraq: Newspaper Says Embargo Likely To Be Lifted 'Soon'

JN1004121996 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that there are big and tangible opportunities for a successful third round of dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations.

The paper says in an article today: The Iraqi delegation has prepared several alternatives to resolve the issue of purchase and delivery to the Kurdistan autonomous region in northern Iraq. These options can be discussed during the talks. Important international and regional parties view these alternatives with optimism.

The paper adds: The duration of the talks, regardless of how short or long, are not a sign of whether they will

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

fail or succeed. Out of practical considerations, the talks will need time to discuss the issues and propose various solutions.

The paper says: This fact refutes the idea promoted by certain hostile media that the talks experienced great difficulties in the first and second rounds.

The paper says very complicated problems are being tackled in the talks. It is natural for the talks to confront these problems in order to solve them.

The paper adds: Iraq entered into the talks with the United Nations to solve the difficult problems and to find formulas or working papers that contain ideas or technical and legal solutions to guarantee that both sides accept the final agreement.

The paper says: Those who talks about "difficulties" in the dialogue are either unaware of the basic principles of politics and negotiation, or they are feigning ignorance to deceive people, turn simple-minded parties into pessimists, and undermine the strength of the Iraqi people.

The paper notes several developments that will significantly affect the outcome of the talks, chief among which is the increasingly positive French and European position toward Iraq.

The paper says: In the past two months, the French president made positive statements, particularly at the conclusion of his visit to Washington when he said: "The success of the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations must be followed by an end to the economic embargo, in implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687." In a statement in Cairo on 8 April, Chirac demanded that the UN Security Council implement its share of the UN resolutions on Iraq. He also said that the implementation of these resolutions should not be confined only to Iraq.

The paper emphasizes that the French president's statements are a practical manifestation of the convictions of the overwhelming majority of countries in the world. The optimism voiced by both the UN secretary general and Iraq is based on a strong foundation.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: UN Security Council Resolution 1051, which was recently issued, is intended to pave the way for lifting the embargo, not just allowing the export of a limited quantity of oil, through the talks. The resolution endorsed the selling and buying "mechanisms" by which Iraq must abide after the embargo is lifted, in accordance with Paragraph 22. This means that preparations are under way to lift the embargo soon.

The newspaper notes the major political developments inside Russia and between Russia and the other former Soviet republics. It also notes events in Turkey and other countries and the financial crisis facing the United Nations as a result of the continuation of the economic embargo against Iraq.

The paper says: These developments provide more support to Iraq and increase the chances of lifting the embargo.

Iraq: Clinton's Refusal To Meet Youth Delegation Ridiculed

JN1004143296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—Wisam Salman Miqlid, Lebanon's representative at the General Secretariat of the Nonaligned Students and Youths Organization [NASYO], ridiculed the continued U.S. hostility to peoples' struggle for freedom and independence.

In a statement to INA today, he said that Bosindyal [name as transliterated], official in charge of NASYO General Secretariat's Foreign Relations, said that he had earlier sent a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton in which he expressed NASYO General Secretariat's desire to meet with him to acquaint him with the suffering of Third World peoples as a result of the hegemonistic policies and interference in internal affairs.

Wisam Salman Miqlid noted that the NASYO General Secretariat was surprised by U.S. President Clinton's evasion and apology for not meeting the NASYO delegation, adding that this was included in a reply message the General Secretariat received from the White House, dated 8 March. He said that the message clearly indicates that the U.S. President cannot face the facts in our youths possession because he is unable to reply to them.

He said that such conduct is not strange to the General Secretariat which stresses that the aim of the meeting was to draw the U.S. President's attention to our peoples' suffering as a result of his administration's hegemony, tyranny, and aggression against our peoples' security and stability, as well as its interference in their internal affairs. He noted that the U.S. President has gone too far in his interference in the United Nations' resolutions to serve his hostile policies and desires.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: Opposition Unable To Confirm Saddam's Daughter Attempted Suicide

MM1004170796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Apr 96 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Raghd Saddam Husayn Tried To Commit Suicide Because of Her Inability To Discover What Happened to Her Son"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — None of the Iraqi opposition groups abroad was able to confirm reports of a recent suicide attempt by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's eldest daughter, the widow of former Iraqi industry minister Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, who was killed last February with all his family members three days after his return from Jordan to where he defected last year.

Sources in the Iraqi opposition in London contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT said that three weeks ago they had received reports that Raghd Saddam Husayn had tried to committed suicide, adding that "our sources did not confirm that this incident took place. We therefore believe these reports to be rumors." They added, however, that "this does not necessarily mean a categorical denial. In Iraq it is difficult to ascertain the veracity of reports concerning the ruling family, which hides behind a high wall of secrecy." [passage omitted]

Iraq: Article Alleges Rift Between 'Udayy, Qusayy

96LH0158A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Mar 96 pp 20-21

[Article by Walid Abu-Zahr: "Will the Conflict Between 'Udayy and Qusayy Erupt? After the Husayn Kamil Massacre, a War of Succession Beleaguers the Family of Saddam Husayn"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the flight of the Iraqi President's two sons-in-law, Husayn and Saddam Kamil, to Amman, was a hard blow to the cohesion of the family and of the ruling regime in Iraq, their return to Baghdad and the savage way in which they, their families, and their relatives were executed, did not restore cohesion and harmony to Saddam's family. It did activate the Iraqi media, which was quick to congratulate the Iraqi president on the harmony that prevailed in the family after the lopping of the "traitorous branch." It is true that Saddam Husayn achieved two victories by exploiting the return of the "errant" sons-in-law to the fold, and their execution, to confirm to all that there is no place for traitors abroad and no life for them at home. Yet there are countless lessons that might be learned from the case of Husayn Kamil, which do not fit in with the regime's calculations.

What Husayn Kamil and his brother did, and in particular what the regime did to them and their families, raises important questions anew about the future of the Iraqi regime and its new makeup, and represents a significant change which today is being monitored and analyzed in international security and political circles.

Perhaps the most important question posed today, in light of the virtual extermination of Husayn Kamil's family, is: who is ruling Iraq and how? What is the new balance of power being conducted by the maestro, Saddam Husayn, to protect himself and his regime?

What is for certain is that the makeup of the regime, which had been based upon the troika of family, clan, and tribe, cracked badly a number of months, if not years, ago. A few months ago there was nothing left but the immediate family, made up of the two sons, 'Udayy and Qusayy; the half brothers Barzan, Sib'awi, and Watban; and the al-Majid clan. Within a short time, the al-Majid clan scattered with the exodus of the two sons-in-law and the elimination of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid from the Defense Ministry at the hands of 'Udayy, to remain a mere advisor without powers. As to the brothers, 'Udayy succeeded in eliminating them one by one when he banished Sib'awi from General Security and Watban from the Interior Ministry. In fact, 'Udayy nearly eliminated him from the world when he mounted an armed attack on him, leaving him partially paralyzed for life. Those who followed the details of the deceptive maneuver to get Husayn Kamil to return and to kill him understand that the absolute ruler of Iraq today is 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. In the end, the circle has drawn tighter around the president, leaving only the father and two sons; of the brothers, only Barzan al-Tikriti is left. He lives in Geneva with the mission of representing the regime and keeping up political and commercial contacts with the outside world.

But does this mean the ruling family in Baghdad has regained its cohesion and entirely done away with the traitorous branches, or those which threaten to betray or destroy the regime? Those who know the secrets of the makeup of the Baghdad regime, what transpires in the corridors of the presidency, and the relations among those who hold the reins of power and the powers and ambitions of each, expect that there will be even more intense and more ominous struggles in the near future.

The 'Udayy-Qusayy Struggle

Well-informed Iraqi sources confirm that Qusayy and 'Udayy have had sharp disputes more than once, but they have not reached the point of rupture or explosion. Now that 'Udayy has clearly revealed his ambitions and succeeded in purging his father's milieu of other

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

likely rivals, leading to the confrontation of the two brothers, more questions have been raised about how far off that explosion between 'Udayy and Qusayy might be, especially as the recent events represent an actual beginning of the family's impending fracture. This seems farfetched in the short range at least, for two major reasons. The first is the presence of Saddam Husayn and his continuity in playing a mediating and leading role imposing the two sons' respect for their father's wishes, especially as any explosion inside Saddam's family could hurt them all, or even provide all the conditions for 'Udayy to use all his resources to make his ambitions succeed, which might include removing his father. The second reason relates to the resources and the completion of the measures necessary for 'Udayy to act on his ambitions.

Hence those in the know assert that 'Udayy's next battle will not be with Qusayy but with his uncle, Barzan. It is true that Barzan no long has the influence he enjoyed in Baghdad when he was chief of intelligence. He was removed due to his opposition to the marriage of Raghad Saddam Husayn to Husayn Kamil, but Iraq's representative to the United Nations in Geneva was considered—and still is—one of the wings of the anti-'Udayy "uncles." 'Udayy's marriage to Barzan's daughter did not succeed in repairing the discord between the two men. Indeed, their relationship deteriorated even further after the divorce and the return of Barzan's daughter to her father's house in Geneva, fleeing 'Udayy and his behavior. But the more significant problem is that Barzan al-Tikriti has, in recent years, and especially after the Gulf war, gone from being one of 'Udayy's enemies around his father to being one of his major rivals in the succession to Saddam.

Husayn Kamil and Barzan

When we met Husayn Kamil in 'Amman, in the course of his remarks he revealed to us the existence of family conflicts and disputes and how Saddam Husayn's family and hangers-on view this brother residing in Geneva.

At the time, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI did not publish Husayn Kamil's remarks about Barzan, in accordance with the wishes of the son-in-law who had fled to Jordan and because of the then ongoing wagers and negotiations over the likelihood of Barzan joining the opposition camp and a plan to remove the regime in coordination with Husayn Kamil. It appears that this was what the Iraqi regime in Baghdad feared, and the fact is that the Baghdad regime's fear of Barzan al-Tikriti's "escape" was very great, especially as the man personally oversees the greater part of Iraq's assets abroad and manages Baghdad's foreign trade. Citing the atmosphere in Saddam's family, Husayn Kamil described Barzan al-Tikriti as "a selfish man who cares only for himself. For that reason, he did nothing and kept quiet over what happened to his brother Watban." He said, "Barzan is very ambitious. He is a greedy man, and for some time has been playing a two-sided game: the first is the government and Saddam Husayn, and the second is succeeding Saddam Husayn." Husayn Kamil justified his request that what he said about Barzan not be published by saying that the Iraqi regime was dubious about Barzan's intentions and suspicious of him and would stick closer to him if the family's fugitive son-in-law attacked him.

Husayn Kamil added that Barzan did not criticize the authorities openly, but we knew what he was doing in his private meetings and councils and contacts. He said, "He was conducting contacts on his own behalf. Through my work in the Ministry of Industry, I met numerous experts whom he had sent, and they talked about him as if he were Saddam Husayn's successor. Even Qusayy received a large number of reports that confirmed he was working for himself and having contacts with many Western parties, in which he presented himself as being the most democratic and most moderate person in the regime.

"In Baghdad, we knew the details of Barzan's dealings very well. After we left I discovered even more the extent of his meetings and contacts with people opposed to Iraq and what he told them, even that some of the recordings of his meetings with some journalists had found their way to Baghdad. I also found out more about the extent of his ambitions."

Because of all this, 'Udayy did and still does consider his uncle Barzan one of the obstacles in his path upward to power; indeed Barzan has today become the sole remaining obstacle, not only to his internal success, but on the foreign and economic fronts. For after what happened to Husayn Kamil, no Iraqi—military or political—would dare undertake any suspect action internally or think of fleeing Baghdad to rely upon forces abroad. The foreign opposition has never, ever posed a danger to the regime in Iraq, and its weight and its role will be much reduced after its having erred in seizing the opportunity of Husayn Kamil's flight. Hence Barzan remains the only member of the family residing abroad who has relations which stir up 'Udayy's doubts and suspicions, and which incline him to settle the matter for once and for all, either by making Barzan return or stripping him of his powers, which seems to be happening, thus forcing him to show his cards. At that point, one might expect an explosion of the struggle between Qusayy and 'Udayy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

This Man is Dangerous

The fact is that the triggering of the struggle between the two brothers does not need much effort, as we know the name and role of a very dangerous character working in the shadows and from inside the presidential palace in Baghdad, in the very presence of Saddam Husayn. This man's name is 'Abd Hammud al-Tikriti. Some know him as the private secretary of the Iraqi president, but very few know his role, character, and abilities, and the ambitions of this very special "major general."

When I met Husayn Kamil at the residence of the dissident Mish'an al-Jaburi in 'Amman, in the presence of Major General 'Izz-al-Din al-Majid, the only one to survive the massacre because of his refusal to return to Iraq, I was eager to ask a question I considered extremely important to Saddam's son-in-law. I said, "In my last meeting with the Iraqi president, his secretary, 'Abd, was present, and I was struck by the high station he enjoyed with Saddam. I began to wonder at that time, but for the first time I am saying it. I have questions about this secretary." Husayn Kamil interrupted me and said, "'Abd is no mere secretary. Today he is the most dangerous man in Iraq. This man knows all Saddam Husayn's secrets and those of most people around him, and he knows more than any of them about Saddam's personality. 'Abd Hammud is an expert at reading the president's personality and understands him very well. He is very clever. He knows where things get done and how to get along around Saddam. For in spite of his very high standing with Saddam, which has excited the jealousy of Qusayy and 'Udayy, he knew how to deal with them, win their trust, and make them comfortable with him. At this time, 'Abd Hammud is working quietly on building up his own power base inside the palace and the forums of government and has become the senior advisor able to intervene in the appointment or dismissal of ministers and senior functionaries.

It appears that it was 'Abd Hammud al-Tikriti who played a major role in putting an end to Husayn Kamil's family's rising influence with Saddam Husayn, when he convinced 'Udayy, Qusayy, and Saddam to refuse the marriage of Saddam's younger daughter Hala to Husayn Kamil's third brother, Hakim (who was killed with them). It was also he who selected the present son-in-law, Jamal Mustafa, the brother of Major General Kamal Mustafa, vice president of the Staff of the Republican Guard in 1994, and gave him his entree to the Republican Palace.

Husayn Kamil went on to say that it was Major General 'Abd had been the decisive factor in the shadows in all the family workings and conspiracies which led to the removal of Sib'awi, Watban, and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and practically getting rid of them. He is also considered to be responsible for most of the significant changes Saddam Husayn has made, especially in the tribal and family circles, which "will lead in the end to the fracture of the family circle protecting the regime on the pretext of protecting it."

He added, "That is why I say to you that 'Abd Hammud is a very dangerous man, because he knows Saddam and his personality so well that he is capable of imitating him and following in his footsteps. If you look at what Saddam Husayn has done since 1968 and the manner in which he attained power, step by step—eliminating Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr after lurking quietly in his shadow for 11 years and as he also did with Hardan al-Tikriti, Sa'dun Ghaydan, Nazim al-Kazzar, and others, until he did away all of them and governed—you will find that Saddam's secretary is taking the same course. Believe me, 'Abd Hammud is planning a very ominous future." I said, "Yes, he is planning to be the man of the future in Iraq."

He said, "He is dangerous. You will see when he makes his move from the shadows into the open."

Iraq: Saddam Speaks on Importance of 'Collective Action'

JN1004165596 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1513 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA) — President Saddam Husayn said: In our opinion, allowing the people to take part in shouldering responsibility is not a technical issue, nor is it an abstract notion. The purpose of this is also not to make others say that the people take part in this or that particular activity. Also, it is not meant to mobilize a part of the people's capabilities at a particular moment and place. Allowing the people to take part in shouldering responsibility is meant to involve them in national responsibility. This is done in novel ways that go beyond the conventional view of national responsibility.

His excellency made the remarks at the Ninawa Governorate building, 400 km north of Baghdad. He added: If the people are not the main pillar of the state and if they do not have a high sense of responsibility toward their state, then the state cannot be as influential and capable as it should be.

His excellency stressed the need to tell people the truth as it is. When the people learn the truth as it is, then they will be able to handle any issue, in cooperation with the administration. Thus, through dialogue and discussion, both sides will come up with solutions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The president added: Anyone of us is weak by himself. However, when we are united, we will be strong and capable, God willing. The basis of collective action is to promote its spirit and historic value at this stage.

President Saddam Husayn asserted that the basis of collective action is to promote its spirit and historic value at this phase. He added: Without collective action, we will not be able to achieve the historic crossing. This process does not only mean crossing to the other bank, when the blockade will collapse with the will of God and the Iraqis. It also includes departing from the state of weakness, which we inherited from a 700- year period of dormancy, to that of capability and influence, thanks to organized collective action in all spheres of society and in all the economic, social, cultural, and construction fields.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn noted: The influence of the leader is commensurate with his creativity. Even the major features of his approach emerge in light of his creativity. When the margin of creativity expands, the leader will have even more than the leadership's influential qualities. When the margin of creativity narrows, the leadership qualities become significantly less influential.

His excellency was speaking at the Ninawa Governorate building in the presence of Fadil Ibrahim al-Mashhadani, member of Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the party's organizations in the governorates of Ninawa, Dahuk, and Irbil; Ninawa Governor Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir; and the party's officials there. His excellency noted that no administrative official or leader should work without policies. At the same time, however, we should not imagine that he is not capable of enriching the policies with his expertise and capabilities when he is given a bigger margin for creativity.

The Ninawa governor and deputy governor earlier briefed his excellency on the cultivation campaign for the present agricultural season, the governorate's plan to carry out the harvest campaign, and the preparations and mechanism of execution adopted to carry out the plan that was drawn up toward this end. They noted that the plan was worked out accurately and objectively and was preceded by a campaign to create public awareness. They said that various official, popular, and professional agencies and sectors took part in this campaign. [passage omitted]

Iraq: PUK's Talabani Views Situation in Iraq, Turkish Operations

NC1104111096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA) — Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has described the current situation in Iraq as deteriorating in a frightening way, adding that the regime has become unimaginably isolated from the people.

In remarks to AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Thursday, Talabani noted that the regime's practices against the Kurds and Shiites have torn the Iraqi community apart. He added that this means that the regime has become a great danger to the unity of the homeland and the unity of the Iraqi people. He noted that the Iraqi opposition, which has roots at home, has started to be active along with more than a million Iraqi refugees abroad. He added that the Iraqi opposition's main problem is the splits within its ranks, so much so that the opposition factions could not agree on a common ground or common program of action.

Talabani expressed his belief that the field action in Iraq represents the safest way to unify the opposition. Toward that end, he proposes the establishment of a political and field command to be established in Kurdistan, northern Iraq.

Talabani also expressed belief that his differences with the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] will end soon, following the upcoming U.S. mediation between the two sides slated for this month. He added: It seems the KDP no longer insists on calling the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] a terrorist organization, a reference that caused differences with the PUK.

Talabani described Jordan's change into a country opposing the Iraqi regime as a victory for the Iraqi people because Jordan is the lung through which the regime breathes. If this lung is blocked, the regime will be in a bad shape. He underlined the Iraqi people's need for the support of neighboring countries whether it be from Syria Jordan, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia.

Talabani considered the Turkish operations in northern Iraq as a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and international law. He expressed his fear that behind these actions lies some kind of old ambitions that some Turkish politicians talk about. He added that he considers the new Turkish government more reasonable and that Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz is aware of the reality in Turkey. He hoped that the Turkish military operations would stop because Iraq's Kurds are against any Turkish or any other intervention in Iraq's internal affairs.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Planes Return After Attacking Area 'Under Syrian Control'

TA1104043196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The tension in the north continues. Local residents were instructed to enter air raid shelters approximately 30 minutes ago. This morning, the Israel Air Force [IAF] attacked a Hizballah base near Ba'labakk in al-Biqa', within an area under Syrian control. Our military correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that all our planes returned safely to base.

Qol Yisra'el's radio monitor Mikha'el Gurdus says that Beirut radio reported that two Israeli aircraft participated in the attack and fired two missiles at their target.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0412 GMT on 11 April adds that "an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that at 0700 [0400 GMT] this morning, IAF planes raided Hizballah targets in the village of Mazra'at 'Ayn Bu Siwar, situated north of al-Nabatiyah in south Lebanon. The targets served as operational bases for Hizballah and are related to the movement's activities in south Lebanon. The IAF jets returned safely to base. The IDF spokesman said that the IDF is taking all necessary steps to guarantee the safety of Galilee residents."]

Israel: Children To Be Taken From Qiryat Shemona; Shahaq Comments

TA1104083596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq has said that the Lebanese Government will have to decide how it wants things to continue. This morning, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was forced to open fire on a Lebanese Army armored personnel carrier that directed antiaircraft fire at Israel Air Force helicopters. The chief of staff said that if the Lebanese Army stays out of the fighting and refrains from firing at Israeli forces, then the IDF has no intention of harming Lebanese soldiers. Lieutenant General Shahaq refused to make any assessments with regard to how long Qiryat Shemona residents would have to remain in air raid shelters. He said that an inspection had showed that the city was prepared for the coming days. Lt. Gen. Shahaq stressed that there was no reason to fear an exacerbation between Syrian and Israeli forces. We have no interest in mixing it up with them, Shahaq said. Ba'labakk is not Syria and if there are Syrian troops in the area, then they should make sure that Hizballah stays away. Israel's business is with Hizballah, not with Syria, the chief of staff said.

Within one hour, the authorities will begin evacuating children from Qiryat Shemona to central Israel. Families who so desire will be able to send their children to IDF vacation facilities. Approximately one hour ago, children and teenagers were evacuated from confrontation line settlements in the Western Galilee to kibbutzim located further south. This was reported by our correspondents Ilan Ro'e and Moti 'Eden.

The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction this morning condemned the Israel Air Force raids on Lebanon and called on the government to stop exacerbating the situation. Knesset Member Tamar Gozansky said that a solution to the security problems of Israel's northern residents would come only within the framework of a political arrangement with Syria.

Israel: Baraq—No Place in Lebanon Immune to Israeli Retaliation

TA1104052796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq by Arye Golan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Golan] Good morning to Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq.

[Baraq] Good morning.

[Golan] Could one say that the Israel Air Force [IAF] raid against Ba'labakk this morning, in an area under Syrian control, was meant to convey a heavy hint to Damascus?

[Baraq] One can say that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will act wherever, whenever, and with whatever degree of force the State of Israel deems necessary. It could be this morning, tomorrow, or in a month. This morning's air strike is very important. It took place in an area under Syrian control. A Hizballah base was hit. This shows that no place in Lebanon is immune from our retaliation against Hizballah activity.

[Golan] So now we are taking the initiative. Has Israel's restraint vis-a-vis Hizballah come to an end?

[Baraq] I prefer never to say anything in advance. The IDF will act wherever, whenever, and with whatever degree of force the government decrees. The State of Israel has a lot of force at its disposal.

[Golan] Minister Baraq, can Hizballah's attacks be stopped without a ground operation? On the other hand, how can we guarantee that we will not again sink into the Lebanese quagmire?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Baraq] We do not have to say anything right now or inform the Lebanese of our actions in advance. We have to strike at Hizballah and force the Lebanese Government to ponder the significance of its responsibility and sovereignty, and see the need to act against Hizballah.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 April also carries an interview with Foreign Minister Baraq, in which he asserts that "the Lebanese Government is the sovereign body in the area and has the responsibility to act. Failure to do so will exact a price, even at the cost of suffering for the civilian population and damage for the Lebanese Government."]

[Golan] One more question. Before Passover, we employed diplomatic means and asked the United States to pressure Damascus to pressure Shaykh Nasrallah, the leader of Hizballah. Can one say that this method has been exhausted and that Israel will no longer seek to use diplomatic leverage?

[Baraq] It is not Israel that sought aid. The Americans hoped to maintain a dialogue and asked both parties to examine the possibilities of calming the situation. We always seek out and try to exhaust every means to lower tensions; however, there are two sides to this coin. Since Hizballah pursued its activities, it will get hit. [passage omitted]

[When asked by Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew whether this morning's air raids had received the approval of the United States, Baraq replies: "We do not need anyone's permission. We are a sovereign country and the IDF operates wherever and however it is instructed to by the Israeli Government."]

Israel: Deputy Defense Minister Or on Beirut Air Raid

TA1104093296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0842 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or by Me'ir Einstein; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Good day to Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or.

[Or] Hello.

[Einstein] After the Israel Air Force [IAF] helicopter raid on Hizballah's main operational headquarters, can we now speak about an exacerbation of the situation?

[Or] Clearly, one can assume that if we fire on Beirut, there has been an exacerbation in the situation; this step, however, was planned in advance. It did not just happen without any prior consideration. There is a definite target in Beirut. Beirut itself must realize that things will not be quiet there if the situation is also not calm in Qiryat Shemona. That is part of our message. The air raid was against a purely military target belonging to Hizballah.

[Einstein] Is this attack mainly meant as a signal to the Lebanese Government to do something?

[Or] On the one hand it is a signal, while at the same time it constitutes an attack against Hizballah. We did not hit a civilian target. We hit a Hizballah target. Hizballah uses civilian structures and conceals its bases among civilian settlements. This is yet more proof of the cynical nature of Hizballah's activities right down the line. Hizballah purports to defend civilian settlements but it conducts all of its ostensibly defensive activities from inside these same settlements.

[Einstein] What information do you already have with regard to the results of the air raid?

[Or] I will release all the information I have as soon as possible. I can only say that the pilots reported very accurate and effective strikes against their designated targets. They hit the exact floor of the building they aimed at and this is very important. I would like to say that one must remember something very important: the Lebanese Government can do more. It must understand that Lebanon's GDP will not grow. The Lebanese prime minister may present rosy economic forecasts but he is not concerned in the slightest about the future of south Lebanon. He must understand that Lebanon is one country and that he is responsible not only for Beirut but for south Lebanon as well.

[Einstein] Judging from past experience, we know that such IDF operations lead to retaliatory volleys of katyusha rockets. Is this indeed the assessment?

[Or] We take every contingency into account. Therefore, as you know, the residents of northern Israel have been placed on alert. I do not intend to discuss all the possibilities of escalation on the radio. Clearly, when you launch an attack, you must take into account the possibility of various responses by the other side. I would just like to say one important thing: Israel's northern residents and the IDF bear the brunt of this activity aimed at guaranteeing longer periods of quiet for the northern settlements. We have no interest in fighting in Beirut or anywhere else. Our goal is to permit the residents of the northern settlements to cultivate their fields and carry on with their daily lives. That is the reason we attacked in Beirut.

[Einstein] Deputy Defense Minister Or, you mentioned earlier that this operation had been planned in advance. What determined its timing? After all, the very fact that the air raid was carried out indicates that the IDF already knew the location of the Hizballah headquarters.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Or] I do not want to get into that. I have already explained on numerous occasions that Israel's considerations are of an operational nature, such as when to strike, at who, and how. Therefore, operational considerations determined that the time was right to attack in Beirut today. Such an operation may have been less appropriate two years ago. I do not want to discuss the nature of our information, when it was collected and so forth. The IDF is always capable of disrupting life in Lebanon. Such operations must be carried out at what is deemed to be the appropriate time.

[Einstein] Thank you, Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or.

Israel: Baraq Briefs U.S. Ambassador on IDF Raids in Lebanon

TA1104094696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq summoned U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk and briefed him on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the foreign minister said that the Lebanese Government was the political address for all developments in south Lebanon.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 0930 GMT on 11 April adds that "Foreign Minister Baraq explained the significance of the air raid from Israel's perspective to Ambassador Indyk. Our political correspondent Udi Segal notes that Baraq told Indyk that no place in Lebanon is immune to Israel's attacks, because responsibility lies with the Lebanese Government. The attacks are being carried out in stages, Baraq explained, and the question of whether the offensive continues depends on developments in the field. Baraq stressed that the IDF has no intention of harming Lebanese civilians."]

Israel: Hizballah Reaction To Result in Harsher Israeli Response

TA1104112996 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1030 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Correspondent Alon Ben-David report — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We would like to go over now to our correspondent Alon Ben-David in the north. The chief of staff toured the north this morning and talked to reporters. What did he say?

[Ben-David] The chief of staff in fact made it clear that if the terrorists retaliate with katyusha fire at Galilee settlemrnts, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be free to act against villages from which the katyushas were fired. He thus told the residents of south Lebanon that they can no longer serve as a shield for Hizballah when it fires at Israel.

What we see beginning here today is a clearly defined operation, unlike Operation Accountability... [three-second break in transmission] a series of gradual-escalation operations, with every Hizballah reaction causing a harsher IDF reaction. Let us hear Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, speaking in Qiryat Shemona this morning:

[Begin recording] [Shahaq] I came here with the commander of the Northern Command to see that the city is ready for the coming days, and I held a meeting with the mayor and the city council. The city is ready and we believe there will be no unsolvable problems in Qiryat Shemona, no matter how the situation develops.

As far as the development of the situation is concerned, let us wait and see what happens in the coming days. Hizballah claims it is the guardian of the south. It is protecting the citizens of south Lebanon, but its way of doing this involves using the citizens as a shield for its own activities. It puts its bases and headquarters inside villages. It fires from the outskirts of villages and right next to UN posts, and it would be wrong to let it have this privilege — certainly not when it constantly announces that if a civilian is harmed, it would feel and understand that it may fire katyushas at the territory of the State of Israel and the security zone. From our point of view, this is part of no understanding. Hizballah will have to decide how it wants to operate in the south from now on. And Hizballah is not alone out there. Lebanon has a government, and the Lebanese Government will also have to decide.

This morning we were forced to open fire at a Lebanese Army APC that opened antiaircraft fire at IDF helicopters. I can only advise or tell the Lebanese Army that we have no interest in harming it. We do not view it as a side to whatever is taking place here. The Lebanese Army should stay out of activity and not open fire. We do not intend to harm Lebanese soldiers. We will, however, shoot back at anyone who opens fire at us.

[Unmonitorable question]

[Shahaq] Hizballah may not use the residents of south Lebanon as a shield. [end recording]

[Ben-David] The IDF today operated in the most sensitive areas for Hizballah, in the al-Biqa' and southern Beirut. Several signals are being sent here: One, to the Syrians, that the IDF will not hesitate to act inside the Lebanese al-Biqa', an area under Syrian control. Another very harsh message was sent to Hizballah: The IDF will hit you even in Beirut, inside the organization's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

headquarters in the al-Dahyah [as heard] neighborhood, which is perhaps the most sensitive place for Hizballah.

Presently, the northern border is quiet.

Israel: 'Change' in Peres Stance on Hizballah; Or Discusses Options

TA1004181896 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen studio report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The feeling today is that the era of self-restraint has ended. The prime minister has every option to act today. He enjoys full political backing in his party as well as in his cabinet. He can, in fact, choose from the numerous options that the army presented to him on a military operation in the north.

Three main things produced the change in the prime minister's stand: first, the Hizballah activity. Without any real activity on the part of Israel, Hizballah is violating even its own jungle rules by firing in broad daylight into Qiryat Shemona, intending to kill as many civilians as possible. Second, when Prime Minister Shim'on Peres cancels a trip to the north because the residents there are angry, it is a very problematic situation for him. We can see how the residents are angry, and the voices naturally reach the prime minister's bureau as well. Peres hears an almost wall-to-wall demand for military action. Third, as we have reported last week, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] top brass are pressing hard for an operation in Lebanon.

Such an operation cannot destroy Hizballah. As far as Peres is concerned, an operation should press the Lebanese Government. We can hit important Lebanese targets, for example. Such pressure will force the Beirut government to press Hizballah. We must, however, also be aware of another issue: Over the past several days, the prime minister has often mentioned Iran and its responsibility for the events in the region. If an operation is indeed launched, the prime minister will want clear Iranian targets and interests in Lebanon harmed as well.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 10 April carries a live interview with Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or in the studio in which he says: "I believe I would rather choose an option that can extend quiet periods and prevent Hizballah from using Lebanese villages. Therefore, we should and will take a series of actions — some are being carried out now, and some will be done later on — that will make Hizballah, and mainly the Lebanese Government, assume responsibility for the lives of the Lebanese citizens who live north of the security zone."

[Asked about acts against Syria or Iran, Or says: "I do not believe that there is reason for action against the Syrians, the Iranians, or the Lebanese Government. Nevertheless, Iran is arming, instructing, and financing them; Syria can prevent Hizballah activities and does not; and the Lebanese Government shows no responsibility for the residents of south Lebanon; hence, it is responsible as well." He adds: "A military operation will be carried out based solely on operational considerations. Regrettably, I also smell electioneering when I hear some people speak of military activity."

[Speaking on the same newscast, Arab affairs commentator Ehud Ya'ari adds: "Unlike on previous occasions, Israel has not asked the U.S. to intervene and talk to Syria and Lebanon in a bid to calm the area. Furthermore, official U.S. Administration reactions have not called for restraint. This means that there is a feeling that the United States is currently clearing the way for whatever means Israel chooses to use and has not yet pursued."]

Israel: Ben-Eli'ezer Warns Right Wing After Threat to Peres

TA1004183296 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, unknown persons broke into the Labor branch in Petah Tiqva and sprayed the walls with red paint. One of the graffiti read: Peres is next. The police have launched an investigation.

Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Labor election campaign manager, addressed the leaders of the right-wing camp saying that this act forces them to cast out destructive elements and to think hard about where it might lead.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Said Target of Failed Assassination Attempt

TA1104135996 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 9 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia, QUDS PRESS — A high-ranking Jordanian official affirmed to QUDS PRESS that Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti was the target of a failed assassination attempt last month. Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, said in a telephone call to a QUDS PRESS correspondent that al-Kabariti "had been exposed to a failed assassination attempt."

The Jordanian Government announced in the middle of last month that it had uncovered 36 terrorist attempts aimed at infringing upon Jordan's security and that it had arrested the suspects. The government insists on keeping the details of the attempts a secret and refrains from publicizing them until the conclusion of the investigations. Dr. al-Nusur refused to provide more details about the failed assassination attempt, but Iraqi opposition sources in Amman claimed in press statements that the suspects in the attempt to assassinate the Jordanian prime minister are connected to the ruling regime in Iraq.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Denies Reports on Talks With Israel, Turkey

JN1104080596 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Apr 96 p 19

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y — Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has denied reports on Jordanian-Israeli-Turkish military talks. He said the press reports are baseless and that there are not any talks on this subject.

Jordan: No 'Official' Comment on 'Arafat's Remarks About Hamas

JN1104104696 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—There has been no official Jordanian comment on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's statements yesterday about Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and its alleged activities in Jordan.

AL-DUSTUR contacted Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who said that Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, head of the higher Palestinian-Israeli negotiations committee, will arrive in Amman today to meet ranking Jordanian officials and discuss this subject, as well as cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority and the general situation in the region.

The Palestinian president announced to a Palestinian Legislative Council meeting in Ramallah yesterday that Hamas has waged war against the Palestinian self-rule authority with the aim of dissuading Israel from pursuing its dialogue with the PLO and so that Hamas, which considers itself the new authority, can get closer to Israel and begin a dialogue with it.

'Arafat claimed that the Hamas leaders are in Amman and that the groups orders come from there. He said he has documents to support this claim. He said he reported the situation to the two sponsors of the peace conference, the world leaders who attended the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, the Arab countries, and the EC.

Jordan has categorically denied the presence of any Hamas leaders in Jordan and said no Hamas activity whatsoever is carried out from Jordan. Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said Hamas supporters in Jordan are engaged in media activities only.

Jordan: Envoy Asks For 'Clarifications' on 'Arafat's Statements

JN1104134996 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received Mahmud 'Abbas, head of the higher Palestinian-Israeli negotiations committee, at his office in the Prime Ministry today.

They discussed cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority, coordination of joint efforts in the interests of the two fraternal peoples, and developments in the self-rule areas and the sufferings of the Palestinian people there as a result of the Israeli policy of closure and siege against these areas.

The prime minister expressed Jordan's eagerness to support the Palestinian people in working to lift the siege from which they suffer as a result of the Israeli measures that would contribute to the obstruction of the peace process in the region.

In a press statement, 'Abbas said his current visit to Jordan is part of the Palestinian efforts that back the Arab efforts in support of the Palestinians, especially since there are Arab countries, such as Jordan, who are concerned about us and can express their opinion and work toward easing the siege imposed on the Palestinians.

He said he explained to the prime minister the difficult conditions from which the Palestinian people suffer as a result of the Israeli siege.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The meeting was attended by the Palestinian ambassador in Amman. Meanwhile, Ziyad al-Majali, head of the Jordanian Representation Office in Gaza, met with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, and asked for clarifications on his statements yesterday about Jordan's support for Hamas.

Jordan: King Husayn Addresses Reception for Arab, Foreign Media

JN1004205096 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, His Majesty King Husayn honored with his noble presence the reception held by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti for Jordanian, Arab, and foreign newsmen who are working in Jordan.

[Begin recording] [King Husayn] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My Brother Abu-'Awn [Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti], dear brothers, I have not prepared a speech on this occasion, but I am happy to be with you as we meet as one family—despite our occasional differences in opinions and trends—that has one purposeful march toward a promising and prosperous future with God's help.

I am greatly indebted to this country and this one big Jordanian family. We are all greatly indebted to it, and we should give its future generations all that we can with sincerity, loyalty, determination, wisdom, boldness, and courage. We should work hard so that eventually we will gain God Almighty's satisfaction and have a clear conscience.

I believe that such meetings are useful and commendable. I hope that there will be more such meetings in the future as they constitute the mechanism for holding a fraternal dialogue to express loyalty for the homeland, and consequently for the [Arab] nation. This will enable us to find the best means to arrive at our goals and objectives.

Our country shall be great thanks to the awareness, steadfastness, and solidarity of its citizens who became well-experienced throughout the years of their lives due to their geographical location, their inherited mission, and their determination.

Despite what was said and is being said, we will never yield, we will not weaken, and will never submit. We will build this country so that it will become a model and an example of democracy. With everyone's help we will make a future of freedom, responsibility, and we will make man as God Almighty wanted him to be; that is, to have great value, a right to this life, and to make a difference by working and building within the framework of this one big family to which we all belong.

I have nothing else to say except that I thank God Almighty for the fact this country is in good condition, has a promising future, and has a great duty toward the Arab nation. God willing, this country will be able to fulfill its duties at all times. I also thank God that we have found this team of young people not only in the government by also in all the key positions in this country. It is a homogeneous and knowledgeable group of people who are well-experienced, loyal, and determined to serve and build this country, and we will give them all the support that we can. I also found that despite old age and white hair, there is not much difference between our generations. [laughter and applause]

My ambitions and dreams are the same as those who built and served this country and we cannot forget their efforts and contributions, regardless of what they achieved or were not able to achieve. My ambitions and dreams are the same as those of young people who seek a promising and prosperous future with God's help. May God guide our march and grant us success. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

[Prime Minister al-Kabariti] Sir, there is no more to be said after you have spoken. When you speak, sir, it is as if the entire homeland speaks. Your words are the voice of conscience, right, justice, freedom, and democracy. A thousand thanks to your majesty. We are always at your service. Thank you, sir. May God keep you. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Israeli Shelling Reported in South; 'Resistance' Responds

NC1004132896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli enemy is continuing its aggression against the peaceful villages of the south. Latest reports from the south say the townships of Yatar, Kafra, Siddiqin, and Jibal al-Butm are coming under concentrated and fierce shelling. The enemy's artillery emplacements are firing 155-mm and 175-mm shells at these areas at the rate of 10 shells a minute.

The men of the resistance are responding to these attacks by targeting the enemy's centers in Humayyid, the Dibil hills, and Majdal Zun. Three Katyushas have fallen on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

REUTERS carried an urgent report a short time ago, saying four Israeli soldiers were wounded, one seriously, when their position in Balat, north of the occupied strip, suffered a direct hit.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1323 GMT on 10 April adds the following: "An Israeli soldier was killed and three others injured in a Hizballah attack on the Jewish state's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon on Wednesday [10 April], militia officials said."]

Lebanon: Israeli Soldier Killed in 'Resistance' Rocket Attack

NC1004164596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Israeli occupation forces have stepped up their attacks against defenseless towns in the south today. The townships of Yatar, Kafra, Siddiqin, Jibal al-Butm, Haris, and Sribbin came under concentrated bombardment. The Israeli shelling caused heavy material damages. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, Israeli gunboats continued to harass the Lebanese fishing boats off the coast of Tyre and Ra's al-'Ayn. The Israelis opened fire on the fishing boats, forcing the fishermen to leave the site. This Israeli escalation was met with an appropriate response by the resistance, who bombarded the positions of the enemy and the agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA].

Citing a source close to the agents, REUTER reports that an Israeli soldier was killed and three others injured when their armored vehicle in Balat received a direct hit by a Sagger rocket.

We were informed a short while ago that Israeli warplanes are currently flying over Tyre and the villages of the western sector at very low altitude. The Israeli aircraft are conducting mock raids, drawing antiaircraft fire from the Lebanese Army defenses. Tension continues to prevail in the south.

Lebanon: IDF Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in Hizballah Shelling

TA1004182096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, Staff Sargent Uri Shraga Friedman aged 20 from Ramat Hasharon, was killed in south Lebanon today. Two other soldiers were lightly injured. Our army correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this afternoon, Hizballah fired mortars at IDF posts in the western sector of the security zone. One of the shells hit a post north of Zar'it, and three soldiers were hurt, one of them mortally. IDF artillery returned fire at the terrorists posts, and the exchanges lasted several hours.

Lebanon: Israeli Shelling Continues; 'Resistance' Attacks Reported

NC1004201396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation artillery is still bombarding the old neighborhoods of the township of al-Qantarah — the area surrounding 'Alman, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Kafr Tibnit, and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and al-Gharbiyah — from its positions in the occupied border strip. The occupation forces are using heavy artillery and fragmentation shells.

An Israeli reconnaissance aircraft has been flying at medium altitude over the central sector of the border strip since 1900 today. We would like to note that the inhabitants of 40 villages in that sector spent the night without electricity, after the enemy bombardment destroyed the transformers of these villages.

In response to the Israeli attacks — which targeted the villages of the south throughout the day and wounded one civilian — the men of the resistance attacked al-Qusayr and 'Alman positions in the eastern sector. They also detonated an explosive charge that targeted the car of agent 'Ali Sulayman al-Sayyid, official in charge of the engineering unit in the western brigade of the agent [South Lebanese Army] militia, as he was passing along the road to Bayt Lif. The car was directly hit.

In another development, one of the resistance groups attacked al-Qusayr position with machine guns and rockets. Violent clashes ensued between the men of the resistance and the unit guarding the position, clashes in which an M-113 troop carrier was destroyed and its passengers wounded.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Raids on South, Ba'labakk Reported; Tyre Army Post Hit

NC1104061096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in Ba'labakk reported that two Israeli warplanes at 0415 today raided the al-Kayyal hill, 2 km west of the Ba'labakk temples. The two planes fired two rockets; the explosion could be heard throughout the city. Antiaircraft guns on the ground confronted the warplanes. The hill targeted by the Israeli aircraft is used as a garbage dump. Soon after, NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in the south reported raids on 'Ayn Bu Siwar. The details are with the agency's correspondent in al-Nabatiyah.

[Begin correspondent Safa recording] [passage omitted] The Israeli occupation forces at 0430 this morning shelled the outskirts of Zibqin, Majdal Zun, Yatar, and Kafra using large-caliber artillery located in the occupation posts in Jabal al-Humayyid. At 0500 this morning Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of Haris, Haddathah, and Bayt Yahun from their posts in Muhaybib. Resistance sources said that at 0500 the resistance fired a salvo of Katyusha rockets inside the occupied territories. Soon after, the enemy retaliated by violently shelling the outskirts of Yatar, Kafra, and Haris from the occupation posts in Muhaybib, Yarin, and Center 17 [not further identified]. The airspace over the villages of the western and central sectors saw extensive activity by AWACS and MK warplanes and helicopters carrying out reconnaissance missions. These reconnaissance flights continued until this morning. During the night they also fired flares. At dawn today security sources reported that helicopters overflew particular areas and raked the valleys and villages along the contact lines with the occupation. The occupation also fired large and medium-caliber machine guns.

In al-Bazuriyah near Tyre some young men and women were hurt when an artillery shell fell near them. Among those hurt are Nadim Nisr, Nadia Furaydah, Nahiyah Damin, Nabilah Fayyad, Darin Nisr, and four others. All their injuries are light and they were taken to Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre. [passage omitted]

At 0630 today Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Tyre and the villages on the contact lines. The raids were confronted by Lebanese Army and Islamic Resistance antiaircraft guns. Qasim Safa, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tyre. [end Safa recording] [passage omitted]

Let us go to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah:

[Begin correspondent al-Tufayli recording] At 0655 today Israeli warplanes carried out two raids on 'Ayn Bu Siwar in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Three warplanes raided parts of the town using four air-to-surface missiles. Columns of smoke were seen rising from the targeted areas. The warplanes are still flying over the area, carrying out mock raids. The warplanes are being confronted by Lebanese Army and Islamic Resistance antiaircraft guns.

An Israeli MK plane is currently overflying the area. The terrorist atmosphere the Israeli army has been spreading since morning has left citizens cautious. [end al-Tufayli recording]

[In a related report Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0515 GMT on 11 April adds the following: "Today there have so far been three raids, the most recent of which was at 0730 local time on a Lebanese Army center near the Tyre rest house. Several people were hurt, according to a source in the Lebanese Army."]

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Raid on Tyre Post 'Came From Sea'

NC1104061496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0528 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned the following:

The raid on the Tyre army center killed one martyr and wounded two from the ranks of the Lebanese Army. The martyr is Salam 'Awdah. The wounded were taken to Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre. The shelling is coming from the sea, not from the air, as previous information reported. The earlier information said warplanes were raiding the area, taking off from an aircraft carrier in the sea. The same information also had it that the shelling was air to surface. Our information says the shelling came from the sea, not the air. The martyr from among the ranks of the Lebanese Army in the shelling of Tyre center is Salam 'Awdah. We do not have the names of the wounded but we will inform you as soon as we get them.

Lebanon: IDF Confirms Air Force Raid on Hizballah in Beirut

TA1104082296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0815 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Telephone report by Avi Lifshitz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] I have just received an announcement addressed to all military correspondents, in which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman officially confirms that this morning's raid by Air Force assault helicopters on Beirut was aimed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

at Hizballah's main operations center in south Beirut. These was the initial report we received on the IDF raid on Beirut. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Israeli Gunboats Shell Southern Suburb; Air Traffic Stopped

NC1104084696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago Israel expanded its attacks on Lebanese civilians. These attacks reached all the way to the Southern Suburb of Beirut. Our security correspondent said four Israeli helicopters overflew the al-Awza'i area. One fired a rocket at al-Sahil Hospital. The other helicopters fired protective thermal balloons. The planes were confronted by antiaircraft fire from the ground.

Our correspondent also observed Israeli gunboats off the al-Awza'i coast. Some sources report that the gunboats shelled parts of the Southern Suburb. Citizens in this area have been told not to go out onto the streets. The Iqlim al-Tuffah Heights are coming under Israeli artillery shelling. The shelling hit 'Ayn Bu Siwar, the outskirts of Jba', Jarju', the southern district of 'Arab Salim, al-Jabal al-Rafi', al-Luwayzah, and Nab' al-Tasi. A short time ago reports said air traffic at Beirut Airport has been stopped.

The Lebanese Army forces in the region have been placed on alert and are in a state of preparedness. The Army Command's Guidance Directorate issued a statement saying so. The statement referred to Israeli raids on al-Kayyal in Ba'labakk and other areas in the south. The statement added that while the Army units were confronting the hostile aircraft using antiaircraft guns, one of the Army posts in Tyre came under shelling from an Israeli helicopter. An army personnel carrier was hit and two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Attacks on Beirut's Southern Suburb

NC1104085096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0834 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist aggression against Lebanon has taken on serious dimensions with the enemy's attack on the Southern Suburb [of Beirut] both from the air and sea.

Zionist naval units are now cruising off the coast of Beirut and the Suburb, firing rockets at the Suburb. Enemy helicopters have carried out several raids against unspecified positions in the Suburb. We will keep you updated in later news bulletins.

According to recent information, property damage has been caused in some areas of the Suburb, but no casualties were reported.

Lebanon: Pilots Report 'Accurate Hits' in Beirut Raid

TA1104085096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0820 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Report by correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[FBIS Translated Text] We interrupt our regular broadcast for an announcement by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman that confirms reports from Beirut of an Israel Air Force [IAF] raid on the Lebanese capital. The IDF spokesman said that IAF assault helicopters raided Hizballah's main operational headquarters in south Beirut this morning. This center is used by Hizballah to plan and coordinate terrorist attacks against Israel's northern settlements and against IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces in the security zone. The location of the operational center shows that Hizballah is using civilians as a cover and shield for its activity. The IDF spokesman noted that the Hizballah operational headquarters was in a multistory building in south Beirut, within a complex of several buildings manned by Hizballah personnel. The Lebanese Government has no authority in the area and the government's security forces are afraid to demonstrate their presence.

The IDF announcement stresses that during the attack on the operational center in Beirut, the IAF used weapons that permit the helicopters to launch accurate strikes against the targets without harming civilians. The pilots reported accurate hits against their targets.

Lebanon: Israeli Army Communique Tells Lebanese Not To Get Involved

NC1104085496 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Text" of "Communique No. 2" addressed to the Lebanese Army on 11 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Air Force will today shell Hizballah targets and the rest of the terrorist organizations. The Israeli army is not interested in a confrontation with the Lebanese Army. The Israeli Air Force will not carry out any operations against the Lebanese Army, but against the terrorist organizations. The Lebanese Army should not interfere in these operations and should not open fire at the Israeli airplanes or at the Israeli ground forces. Otherwise, the Israeli army reserves the right to attack and silence the sources of fire. The Israeli army advises the Lebanese

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Army not to get dragged into the provocations and not to get involved in the Israeli operations against Hizballah.

Lebanon: Air Traffic Resumes; More Israeli Raids on South Reported

NC1104092396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago we were told that air traffic has resumed at Beirut International Airport after being stopped for 45 minutes because of the aggressive shelling that targeted the airport road.

Israeli warplanes raided areas of Jabal Safi and 'Ayn Bu Siwar at 1115 this morning and fired many air-to-surface missiles. The Lebanese Army confronted the raiding warplanes and fired antiaircraft guns at them. The hostile warplanes broke the sound barrier over Sidon. The Israeli warplanes are still overflying al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah all the way north to Beirut. Occasionally they are carrying out mock raids at low altitudes over these areas.

Lebanon: Helicopters, Gunboats Target Hizballah Shura Council

NC1104093596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The final casualty toll caused by the Israeli air bombardment of Beirut's Southern Suburb is not known yet. According to security reports, Israeli helicopters fired four air-to-surface rockets while Israeli gunboats fired two rockets. An Israeli rocket fell near the Hizballah Shura [Consultative] Council and three rockets fell near the al-Sahil Hospital.

Lebanese police say three Israeli helicopters opened gunfire on the al-Awza'i area, the Beirut International Airport road, and Harat Hurayk, where the house of 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and the Hizballah Shura Council are situated.

The Lebanese Army opened antiaircraft fire at the Israeli helicopters. Telephone communications were disrupted in the Southern Suburb and traffic came to a standstill with only ambulances roaming the streets.

Lebanon: Army To Answer Israeli Attacks 'With Every Means'

NC1104095196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Communique" issued by the Lebanese Army Command's Guidance Department on 11 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli enemy has widened the scope of his aggression to include Beirut's Southern Suburb. At 1100 today three Israeli helicopters shelled Harat Hurayk, causing casualties among civilians. Lebanese Army units deployed in the area intercepted the Israeli helicopters. The Army Command has taken every measure to face up to any Israeli aggression.

Israel's warnings that the Lebanese Army should not get involved in the fighting do not concern the Army Command. Orders and instructions have been issued to the Lebanese Army to answer the Israeli attacks with every means wherever the attacks are.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Overfly Suburb; Civilian Killed

NC1104101296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0956 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the newsdesk:

The Zionist warplanes flew low altitude sorties over the Southern Suburb around 1245 today and drew antiaircraft fire.

Reports say two civilians were wounded during the raid on the Suburb this morning. One has succumbed to his wounds.

Lebanon: Hizballah's Yazbak—'Zionist Aggression' Makes Us Stronger

NC1104102296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Muhammad Yazbak, the legitimate representative of his eminence the leader in al-Biqa' and the north [as heard], has stated that the Zionist escalation and the barbaric bombardment of Ba'labakk, Beirut, and the south only seeks to guarantee Shim'on Peres an election victory. He added that Peres believes he can win only through destruction and by killing these people.

Shaykh Yazbak, in an exclusive interview with the Voice of the Oppressed and al-Manar Television, said the Zionist aggression will only make us stronger, firmer, braver, and more daring in our moves to restore our usurped rights.

If the enemy is promising itself gains, it will only harvest disappointment, because the arm of the Islamic Resistance is long. The resistance will turn into a volcano that erupts in the face of this enemy and those who back it, Shaykh Yazbak said.

He added: We will be with our people and folks and the Islamic Resistance will continue to represent first-class

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

power, pride, dignity, and glory and it will continue to protect these people, their rights, and dignity.

Lebanon: Israeli Planes Attack al-Jiyah Hills

NC1104103596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes attacked the al-Jiyah hills [midway between Beirut and Sidon] at 1300 today. Meanwhile, Israeli planes are continuing to fly over Beirut's Southern Suburb, drawing ground fire.

The Israeli planes strafed the Abu-Mahir Restaurant in the al-Jiyah hills. Several cars were damaged and people were killed or wounded.

Two explosions were heard in the B'ir al-'Abd area [in Beirut's Southern Suburb]. Reports say Israeli helicopters dropped delayed action bombs and unidentified objects on the Southern Suburb. The security forces are deactivating them.

A building near the Hizballah Shura Council received a direct hit and was partially damaged.

Lebanon: Israeli Planes Raid Civilian Convoy; Material Damage

NC1104103796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1023 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the newsdesk:

The Israeli warplanes raided a convoy of civilian cars along the road leading to Tayr Falsayh and [al-Shuhur] at 1250. The planes fired two rockets, one of which missed the convoy, while the other hit three cars, the passengers in which escaped. Only material damage has been reported.

Lebanon: Military Source Tells Citizens To Beware 'Objects'

NC1104104996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A military source has asked citizens not to gather in areas targeted by Israeli aircraft, not to touch objects dropped by the enemy aircraft, and to inform the nearest military post of the presence of such objects.

Lebanon: Defense Minister Comments on 'Aggression,' Calls For Unity

NC1104112296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1034 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today met Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul. Afterward Dallul said:

[Begin recording] [Dallul] We discussed the Israeli aggression, from air and sea, targeting most of Lebanon' territory, and artillery shelling. This was the...

[Unidentified correspondent interrupts] Did you consider political or diplomatic measures?

[Dallul] Diplomatic contacts are under way. We have one soldier martyred and another wounded today in Tyre in the air bombardment that targeted army positions and an army armored personnel carrier. The aggression since morning has targeted more than one Lebanese Army position.

[Correspondent] Has the government adopted specific measures? Will there be an extraordinary cabinet meeting for instance?

[Dallul] I have not been informed of any cabinet meeting.

[Correspondent] It is being said that the resistance's violation of the July understanding has led to the current situation. Is there any pressure by the government on the resistance to revert to its earlier activity?

[Dallul] Let us first examine the course of events. We must not be.... [pauses] There was Israeli aggression against the village of Yatar. Children were killed. Do these children matter or not? Do they have relatives or not? Why should our people's lives not count when the lives of Israelis count? This is wrong and unacceptable. Israel violated the July 1993 understanding and committed massacres against our people in all the villages. It was natural to respond. Do they want to shell and strike deep into territory and expect people not to respond? This makes no sense.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] in Beirut for the first time?

[Dallul] This is true. In Harat Hurayk, in security areas, Bi'r al-'Abd, the al-Sahil Hospital area, the airport road, al-Ruways, and deep into al-Biqa'. Now they are targeting Iqlim al-Tuffah— villages and civilians.

[Correspondent] What measures does the government intend to take to prevent a recurrence? Now that the capital has been hit [words indistinct]?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Dallul] This is not the first time the capital has been hit. But we are taking measures, as far as the resources available to us permit. Nobody should ask us to do anything beyond our capability. We denounce the aggression and urge our people to be united. We urge all the forces to rally together so that our decision is firm and our position effective.

[Correspondent] Do you expect further escalation?

[Dallul] It is possible. We must consider every possibility. This is because we are now paying the price of the Israeli election. Peres might wake up upset one morning. We must see what we can do to reverse this. Maybe tomorrow he will develop a fever or his blood pressure will go up or down. The Lebanese people will have to pay the price. [laughter]

[Correspondent] Do you have information on the number of victims?

[Dallul] A statement will be made in this regard later. [end recording]

Lebanon: 27 Lebanese Hostages Released in Liberia

NC1004204296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister in charge of expatriates 'Ali al-Khalil was notified this evening that 27 Lebanese nationals, who were held hostage by General Johnson in Monrovia, have been released and that negotiations are under way to release the remaining six nationals.

Minister al-Khalil stated that Lebanon will start to evacuate its nationals from Liberia later this evening. Al-Khalil told REUTERS that Lebanon has taken the necessary measures to evacuate women and children, as well as men who choose to leave, from Monrovia to Sierra Leone. He added that at least two ships are waiting in the Liberian regional waters near Monrovia to transport them.

Lebanon: Fadlallah—Turkey-Israel Treaty Creates Anti-Arab Alliance

NC1104070696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said he believes Israel planted the bomb in Bra'shit to arouse popular feeling against the resistance. He said the Islamic Resistance response put things in their true perspective. In a Koranic interpretation lesson his eminence said the enemy is going through a crisis in its security and political plans in the south, since it is committing many political mistakes. He said that when Israel wants to kill civilians at random, then its civilians will not be far from punishment in this way. He noted that the Israeli reaction to the shelling of the settlements was to shell the outskirts of the villages, not their centers. They were very careful not to hit civilians. 'Allamah Fadlallah expressed his belief that the nation is showing increased vitality in its struggle against Israel. He said: We used to wait for Israel to punish us for every action taken by the resistance fighters. Now Israel and the settlers are awaiting retaliation for their actions. He stressed that such a decisive and firm method could restore the nation's spirit, because a nation that loses its spirit in front of fear and terror is a nation that cannot survive.

Ayatollah Sayyid Fadlallah spoke about Turkish-Israeli military cooperation. He said the Turkish-Israeli agreement constitutes a dangerous development, since it tips the balance of Islamic and Arab security. He said: When Turkey and Israel sign a military treaty, such a treaty creates a strategic alliance placing Turkey and Israel in one trench against the Arab world. We understand what the Egyptian officials wanted to say when they said this treaty threatens regional and Arab security.

Lebanon: Lahdists Reportedly Leaving Country

96AA0189B Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Mar 96 pp 22-23

[FBIS Translated Text] The morale of the leaders of the Israeli occupation agents in Antoine Lahd's army is very bad. In his last press statement, the commander of this army clearly hinted at this situation. He blamed the state for trying to "corner his group" and threatened to "let his group violate the remaining red lines!"

Whatever the implications and background of Lahd's statement may be, reports from the occupied [border] strip say that leaders of the Lebanese agents are living in psychological fear for various reasons. They feel that Israel's occupation will not last long and that the settlement train on the Lebanese-Israeli track could reach its station this year or next year, at the most. This means that their future is uncertain. The agents doubt the assurances they received from the Israelis that Tel Aviv will not abandon them after it withdraws from the border strip and will not use them as a card at the negotiating table with the Lebanese Government. The series of judicial rulings initiated by the Lebanese state against the senior agents in the occupied area made all the collaborators in Lahd's army, whatever their ranks or their connections with the occupation, feel that the Lebanese state will not compromise regarding their situation now or during the negotiations with Israel. They think that the state has decided their fate, which is the fate deserved by agents and traitors. The agents' feeling that the state was firm and serious in its punishment increased after the daring operation carried

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

out inside the occupied strip. This operation has led to the arrest of Ahmad al-Hallaq, the person who planted the bomb in the Sfayr quarter in the Southern Suburb of Beirut last year. He was lured from the border strip and handed over to the Lebanese judicial authorities, which could sentence him to death.

In the light of these developments, the agents have begun considering their future and the way out of their situation individually or collectively. They have been trying to secure guarantees about their future after the settlement, particularly as they do not trust Israeli promises that they would be given practical guarantees at the appropriate time. The agents recall what happened to the Palestinian collaborators. Israel broke its promises to them and the Israeli society demanded that they should be settled outside Israeli towns and villages. The unfavorable reception accorded to Antoine Lahd when he stood in the Israeli Knesset to speak and the shouts by some deputies "get out traitor," also made the agents think that the Israeli government and people will not treat them in the future any better than they treated the Palestinian collaborators.

In short, Lahd and his followers are facing a dilemma. First, the Lebanese state and people have accused them of high treason. Second, Israel thinks that they will be a burden in the future, as shown in what happened to Lahd in the Knesset.

What should they do? This is the pressing question the agents have been asking themselves.

The possible solutions are few and the options are extremely limited. In the light of this situation, each agent is trying to find an individual solution to his future by exploiting his relationship with this or that Israeli officer or this or that party. They try to obtain immigrant visas to settle in foreign countries.

AL-SHIRA' has obtained information about many agents who obtained immigrant visas to foreign countries through Israel's mediation. A list of the most important agents and the countries to which they obtained visas follows:

'Aql Hashim: He has visas to France and the United States. He owns a house in Paris where his two daughters currently reside. He owns another house in the state of Pennsylvania, in the United States.

Riyad al- Abdallah: He has a visa to Belgium. He has bought a house there and owns a house in Metulla, in Israel.

Ahmad Hallaq (arrested recently): He has a visa to the Philippines. He was receiving $1,500 monthly when he lived there and before he returned to the border strip and was arrested. During his stay in the border strip area, he carried an identity card with the name of Michel Abu-Khayr.

Munir Haddad: He has a visa to Italy and maintains trade relations in that country.

Francis Rizq: He is an adviser to Lahd. He has a visa to France.

Talib Siblini (the security chief for al-Naqurah and al-Hamra crossing point): He has a visa to France.

'Adil Raslan (the Al-Tayyibah security chief): He has a house in Metulla, northern occupied Palestine.

Sami al-Shidyaq: He lives in 'Ayn Ibl. He and Sa'd Haddad established the Free Lebanon Army. He has a visa to Canada.

Abu-Burhan (the 'Aytarun security chief): He has a visa to Germany. He was active in bringing forged visas, through Israel, to people in the border strip who wanted them.

'Imad Murad (Aytarun security official): He has a visa to Germany.

Ibrahim al-Sayyid (disabled): He has a visa to Denmark.

Rubin 'Abbud: A lieutenant commanding officer in 'Adasiyah and Kafr Killa. He has a visa to a South American country.

Kamal Fayyad: He has a visa to Canada and owns a house in Windsor.

Haydar Bazzi: He had a visa and left for the United States.

Hasib Farhat: He has a visa to Germany.

Ahmad Shibli: He owns a house in Metulla, in northern occupied Palestine. He is 'Aql's deputy in the Western Brigade.

Fayiz Qassis: He has a visa to the United States.

Abu-Farah: He has a visa to France.

Georges Abu-Murad (the Jazzin security chief): He has a visa to France.

Khalil Bazzi: He had a visa and left for Zaire. 'Aql Hashim has recently visited him there.

Husayn Bazzi: He had a visa and left for the United States.

'Abbas Khanafir: He had a visa and left for Zaire.

Ibrahim Dahir: He had a visa and left for Canada a few years ago.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Husayn Hashim: He had a visa and left for the United States.

Nimr Daghir: He has a visa to the United States. He currently moves between the border strip and the United States.

Ahmad 'Abd-al-Jalil Shit, from Kafr Killa: He has a house in Metulla, northern Palestine.

Qasim Khanafir (Abu-Jamal): He had a visa and left for Canada.

'Abd-al-Hasan Nasrallah: He had a visa and left for the United States.

A group of agents has left for Kuwait, but was expelled during the past two months.

Victor Nadir: A commander of a special unit attached to 'Aql Hashim. He is from Mahjari, east of Sidon. He has a visa to France.

Jean Himsi (Abu-Nabil), from Burj al-Muluk: He has a visa to an unknown country.

Ghazi al-Ghawi, al-Khiyam security chief: He has a house in Metulla.

Lebanon: 'Resistance' Use of Informational Warfare Viewed

96AA0189A Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 16 Feb 96 p 10

[Report by 'Ali al-Hajj Yusuf]

[FBIS Translated Text] Real warfare is taking place in South Lebanon and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi between the Israeli occupation army and the Islamic Resistance in which all weapons are being used. The informational and psychological weapons are considered the most important and effective in this warfare, because of their effect on the morale and behavior of the opposite side—soldiers or civilians. The propaganda war is more effective than the gun.

Continuous military and security events have taken place in the South and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi, confirming the enemy's determination to continue wading through the Lebanese swamp on all levels. The daily orders issued by the enemy's military, political, and security staff confirm that a change has taken place in the conflict between the Islamic Resistance and the Israeli occupation forces. Observers believe that the enemy has lost much of the initiative—if not all the initiative—on the ground. It has been forced to change its strategy in Lebanon, because the Islamic Resistance possessed the weapon of surprise or "initiative." The resistance controls a large part of the deterrence, which the Israeli enemy has used in Lebanon since the 1978 invasion to impose its conditions on it and on the region.

Through political, military, security, and informational tactics, the occupation forces are trying to consolidate their presence and role in Lebanon and revive the idea that they cannot be defeated. They highlighted their military capabilities with announcements first about the Dhi'b Ze'ev-500 missile, then about the Ofeq-3 satellite, and finally about an anti-Katyusha laser-guided missile, which they are still developing and testing. This could take a long time.

The real warfare taking place on Lebanese occupied and unoccupied territory is in the informational and the psychological field. The following examples will show the attention the Israeli enemy and the Islamic Resistance are devoting to this type of warfare.

The outcome of the Bint Jubayl operation carried out by the resistance fighter Salah Ghandur "Malak" on 25 April 1995, near the entrance to building 17, remained unclear after the enemy imposed a total blackout and closed the area of the operation to journalists.

The same day, Israeli television showed smiling Israeli soldiers riding in their armored cars near the site of the suicide operation. It also showed distant shots of the damage, concealing the effects of this operation. However, a video of the operation shown on Lebanese television forced the Israeli media the next day to show some burned military vehicles and soldiers riding in armored vehicles with their heads down, indicating their disappointment and sadness. Despite this obvious attempt to underestimate the significance of Salah Ghandur's suicide operation, the results remained unclear to some extent.

The Israeli army launched a propaganda campaign in 1994 about a missile produced by the Israeli military industries called Dhi'b Ze'ev—500, highlighting its huge destructive capabilities and noting that it would be used against the Islamic Resistance bases. The radio of Agent Antoine Lahd played a major role in exaggerating the capabilities of this missile and preparing ground for using it. The radio said that this missile can destroy everything within a radius of 400 meters.

The occupation army, indeed, fired the missile at Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly at Jabal al-Rafi'. Islamic Resistance sources later reported that a preliminary survey of the area, where the missile fell, showed that its destructive capacity did not exceed that of a 240-mm mortar or a destructive radius of not more than tens of meters.

The Rabb Thalathin-al-'Adasiyah operation destroyed the myth about a machine for the detonation of explo-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sive devices. Islamic Resistance fighters detonated an explosive device Israeli engineering officers were trying to dismantle with this machine, which disappeared from the Israeli television screen after the operation.

The Israeli media are currently giving publicity to a new anti-Katyusha laser-guided weapon, which the United States and Israel are developing jointly. Patriot missiles could not intercept the Iraqi Scuds, which fell on Tel Aviv during the second Gulf war. We do not think that the laser-guided missile, which, according to the enemy, is still in the development stage and will require a long time until they can put it into operation, will fair better than the Patriot that failed more times than it succeeded.

As shown in the previous examples, the enemy has launched a psychological warfare, in conjunction with its continuing attacks, to highlight its extraordinary capabilities and hide its losses.

Just as the Israeli enemy did during the 1982 invasion when it dropped leaflets from military aircraft calling on the Lebanese people to pause and think, the Israeli and agent media, during the seven-day war in July 1993, fulfilled the same role in a different way. The media tried to isolate the resistance from the people by advising them to keep away from the resistance bases and houses. Israeli military statements said that air and ground attacks were not directed against the civilians, but against the resistance fighters (although shells were falling indiscriminately on villages).

Contradicting themselves, the enemy leaders later announced that the purpose of the air raids and shelling was to drive away hundreds of thousands of civilians to create popular pressure against the resistance and force the Lebanese government to act against it.

As for the Islamic Resistance, it has perfected its military and informational roles. Besides its success in the military field, it succeeded in the information field. In a method unprecedented in any confrontation field, the Islamic Resistance began videotaping its major military operations to confirm their effectiveness and fulfill two important roles: First, to launch a psychological warfare against the occupation soldiers and their agents and second, to strengthen the mobilization effort to fight the enemy and its agents.

The Islamic Resistance's media also filled an informational vacuum and fulfilled an important role in highlighting the picture of the resistance member as a trained, educated individual. It gave a real picture of the situation of the Lahdist agents and the Israeli soldiers, who are living in continued frustration and fear. For example, many agents are defecting. The agent leaders are leaving the country. The occupation leaders have been trying to reassure the agents, who see the bodies of their colleagues killed in ambushes and explosions as shown on the resistance media. The last incident was in Tayr Harfa where the people in Lebanon saw the bodies of three agents killed when an explosive device planted by Islamic Resistance fighters in an agents' position went off.

This informational-psychological warfare will continue as long as the war continues in the South and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi. Its tempo will rise or fall according to the military situation. Points will be recorded against the background of shells and bullets.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria: Radio Reports al-Qadhdhafi's Phones al-Asad

JN1104073596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, last night. The conversation dealt with regional developments.

Syria: Press Comments on Turkish-Israeli Military Agreement

JN1104091696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0455 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial headlined "The Suspicious Alliance and the Dangerous Game," the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the Turkish-Israeli military agreement and the negative regional and international reactions to this agreement.

AL-BA'TH says: In recent decades, Syria has sought good relations with its neighbor, Turkey, based on mutual respect, good neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, and abidance by obligations. Syria has never relinquished its obligations or broken any of its promises.

AL-BA'TH wishes that the Turkish side had abided by its obligations, as Syria did. It says that the Turkish side did not abide by its obligations on the water issue.

AL-BA'TH says: We do not believe that the Turkish people's interests conflict with the establishment of good relations with Syria. In our opinion, the opposite is true. Syria has never been against good relations with Turkey. However, it seems that there are groups hostile to both sides that seek to strain relations and fabricate differences. Anyone who read the Turkish newspapers and watched or listen to Turkish electronic news media must have noticed the unclean hands leading a campaign of slander, instigation, and provocation against Syria by relying on false and slanderous information.

AL-BA'TH stresses: Israel and the enemies of Syria and the Arabs are involved in this campaign. Syria has called attention to this more than once, stressing the long history of Arab-Turkish and Syrian-Turkish relations.

AL-BA'TH says: The present and the future should be taken into consideration. Despite all the slander, Syria is looking to the future and believes that both sides are interested in dealing with each other based on mutual respect, recognition of each side's rights, taking its interests into consideration, and relinquishing provocation and threats.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria, which relentlessly confronted all forms of alliances in the past, will not be intimidated by the security and military cooperation between Turkey and Israel. The side that should be worried is the side that plays with fire and implicates itself in a dangerous game. It does not know where this game will lead, especially at a time when this side is suffering from internal weakness and security disturbances.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The policy of alliances, which was resisted and defeated by the people of the Middle East at the beginning of independence and liberation, will not return. The forces that encourage this policy and escalate the situation in the region will be totally responsible for returning this region to the whirlpool of tension, wars, and blood and for failing to make progress in the peace process and achieve a just and comprehensive peace, security, and stability for all sides.

In its commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that alliances with Israel are suspicious. The paper expresses its astonishment, because this issue is not confined to Turkey. It says that there are Arab and international sides that do not hesitate in showing hostility to the Arabs to appease Israel and signal their readiness to ally with Israel, despite all its practices.

AL-THAWRAH says: These alliances conflict with the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, as well as with the requirements of this peace.

It says: What is currently taking place in the Middle East has nurtured the feelings of despair and frustration. It has also caused people lose hope about the possibility of achieving a peace that safeguards all sides' rights, interests, and dignity.

In another commentary under the headline: "Getting Out of the State of Inaction," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: President Hafiz al-Asad showed great vision in his remarks about the dangers to the Arab situation if it continues to deteriorate. He was the first to sound the alarm, warning of Arab indifference to the rapid international developments that affected the regional situation. At the same time, Israel benefited from these developments and sought to exploit them to serve its own plans to forfeit the region's identity and build a new regional system in harmony with its efforts to continue its occupation of some Arab territories, obliterate the nation's pan-Arab rights, and control its resources.

AL-THAWRAH says: Although the situation calls for sorrow, as well as sadness and pain, leader al-Asad

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

offered hope when he called for confidence in the future through persistent and sincere action to close the Arab ranks and to achieve an effective solidarity to stop the deterioration and lay the foundation for a pan-Arab awakening capable of confronting all kinds of challenges.

Syria: Radio—Turkish-Israeli Military Pact 'Serious Precedent'

JN1004154696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1132 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Peace remains incomplete. It is even still in its rudimentary stages, although the foundations of the U.S. initiative and Madrid conference are clear. These foundations are the land-for-peace principle and the resolutions of international legitimacy. This was confirmed by President Jacques Chirac, who announced that the foundations of peace are clear, that is, full withdrawal from the Golan in return for full peace. He linked the entire peace process to the land-for-peace formula. He said it was necessary to work out a just and equitable agreement among all parties concerned with the final status of the Palestinian territories on the strength of the land-for-peace principle. He said that this agreement should address the more difficult issues, like the issue of Jerusalem, the Palestinian state, the status of refugees, the future of settlements, and making the region free of weapons of mass destruction.

Like other officials in the region and the world, President Chirac realizes that Syria is serious and is willing to help the peace process achieve its goal, provided that the principles and foundations of peace are observed on the ground. It is our conviction that he who knows the reality of the Syrian position will, at the same time, understand the reality of the Israeli position — a position that rejected the foundations and principles of peace, precluded the progress of the peace process, and caused it to reach the current status.

Israel not only complicated the peace process and aborted the international efforts which truly seek to render it a success, but also continued its efforts to make the essence, foundations, and rules of the new Middle East harmonious with and identical to its perspectives and schemes. Israel does not seek peace or coexistence in the region. Rather, it seeks to set up hostile alliances threatening the entire regional security.

Regrettably, Israel found its goal, this time, in an Islamic state; namely, Turkey. The strategic military cooperation agreement between Ankara and Tel Aviv will in no way serve either peace or the Islamic and regional interests. The agreement can be interpreted as a Turkish blessing of Israel's policy of tarnishing the Islamic holy places. It is a serious precedent in Arab-Turkish relations. We do not believe that such an agreement, which is hostile to both Islam and Arabs, will serve the interests of a significant member state of the Organization of Islamic Conference that has historical and cultural ties and good-neighborly relations with the Arab and Islamic world.

When Israeli officials announce that this agreement targets Syria and aims to threaten it, Turkey should rethink its position in order to preserve bonds and good-neighborly relations, which Syria cares about for the sake of the two peoples' interest and to maintain mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs.

The peace that is aspired for this region can be realized only if it is just, comprehensive, and based on international legitimacy. This is Syria's demand, which is supported by Europe, Russia, and the active forces in the international arena. The U.S. initiative proceeded from this demand. If it really seeks the stability of the region and the security of its peoples, Turkey should join forces with others to make peace and shape the region's future on the basis of guaranteeing the rights, dignity, and security of all. Turkey should not trail behind the Israeli scheme, which does not serve its interests, renders it hostile to its neighbor countries, and, thus, threatens the Arab and regional security.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Meets UN Official, U.S. Senator

LD1004164196 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Brother Hekmatyar met Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN secretary-general's special envoy on Afghanistan, and an American senator, Hank Brown. The report says that yesterday morning brother Hekmatyar separately met Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN envoy, and Hank Brown, an American senator, and explained the Hezb-e Eslami stance to them. Brown met the leaders of the Kabul administration the day before yesterday and later went on to Jalalabad, where he met brother Hekmatyar, Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, Haji Abdol Qadir, and Haji Din Mohammad. He is planning to meet the leaders of all parties, including the Taleban, to find out their views on a solution to the current crisis.

Afghanistan: Taleban Given Equipment by Pakistan to Produce Narcotics

LD1004191496 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has given the Taleban group equipment for narcotics production.

Bakhtar reports that Deputy Foreign Minister Abdorrahim Ghafurzai pointed this out when speaking at a UN Security Council session. He said: The Taleban has produced and exported hundreds of tonnes of heroin. During the past five months, the Taleban has exported hundreds of tonnes of narcotics from territory under their control. Income from this is financing the fighting. This has been an additional source of income on top of Pakistan's assistance.

The deputy foreign minister said: Poppy production has dramatically increased in areas under Taleban control, and Pakistan has given the Taleban processing equipment to help in the export of of these goods.

Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Attack on Kabul Kills 1, Injures 2

LD1004153096 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night and today Benazir Bhutto's Taleban fired rockets into residential areas of Kabul. BAKHTAR reported to us that last night and today Taleban members fired 13 rockets into residential areas of Kabul, killing one person and injuring two others.

Afghanistan: Government Aircraft Bomb Taleban Forces South of Kabul

LD1004183596 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9 April and today, Air Force jets made five bombing raids on Taleban troop concentration points and fortifications to the south of Kabul. There are as yet no available reports on losses sustained by the Taleban group.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Troops Occupy 'First Position' in UN Peacekeeping

BK1104060596 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh occupies the first position among 70 member states for devoting personnel, equipment, and other varieties of support to the United Nations peacekeeping operations — 2,104 Bangladeshis are serving in 13 out of the 18 active peacekeeping missions, followed by 1,750 Indians, 1,195 from Russia, and 1,133 from the United States. Bangladesh has at present a battalion of 804 personnel and 10 military observers in UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] stationed between Iraq and Kuwait, and another battalion of 873 in Haiti. There is also an engineer corps of 231 personnel along with 10 military and 21 police observers in Angola.

Bangladesh: Political Parties Urged To Uphold Democratic Values

BK1104021096 Dhaka JANAKANTHA in Bengali 4 Apr 96 p 4

[Editorial: "In the Interest of Smooth Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the resolution of the two-year-old crisis in Bangladesh, the people are now expecting a better future. During the crisis, especially in its final days, people were gripped by the foreboding of an unholy shadow over the country. This was because of the overheated and deteriorated political situation. Uneasiness replaced the usual calm. Later, even though the crisis was resolved, people feared the outbreak of massive violence. However, it is a matter of happiness that political sanity has prevailed. Political leaders have been able to appropriately deal with the political tumult. Power has been transferred and former Chief Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman has assumed the responsibility of chief adviser of the caretaker government. The situation is fast returning to normal. Traces of the tension are still seen from the attacks and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

counterattacks by rival parties in various places. Victory marches are sometimes attacked, and retaliations follow. However, clashes between rival parties have not reached the feared dimensions and the prompt steps taken have helped to restore normality. However, minor incidents may also trigger widespread chaos any time.

What is encouraging is that caretaker government chief Habibur Rahman has categorically declared that he attaches the highest importance to maintaining law and order and said the government will not hesitate to take the sternest steps in doing so. Rahman has given this top priority to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of elections. This is what our countrymen desire, and this is a task of primary importance. Although the causes of the tensions that developed over a long time have been removed, traces of it still remain, consequently leading to clashes, attacks and counterattacks in various parts of the country. The caretaker government is taking and will take steps to eliminate the uneasines and tension. However, everyone has to cooperate. We feel that it is everyone's duty to fully cooperate with the caretaker government in the interest of smooth elections. Caretaker Government Chief Rahman also expects this. He said it is not enough to have only 11 advisers to ensure smooth elections. He seeks the cooperation of all, irrespective of their party affiliations in fulfilling this formidable task.

Needless to say, maintaining peace and establishing law and order are the primary task of the time. The country's main political parties have assured the caretaker government of all their cooperation. The situation will soon become normal if all of them cooperate. The main task now is to bring situation under control and create a peaceful political atmosphere essential for smooth elections. Pursuing the same end, political parties should simultaneously shun all kinds of extremism in word and deed. As everyone aspires for the betterment of the people through democracy, any provocative remarks and undemocratic behavior will not contribute to normalizing the situation. It is also inconsistent with the democratic atmosphere. Everyone earnestly yearns to strengthen democracy. To achieve this, one should also endeavor to promote a democratic mentality and uphold its practices. One should, therefore, display such a mentality and be restrained in word and action.

The people have struggled for a long time for democracy. Many of the country's prominent political leaders had to make sacrifices and suffer hardship. Democratic thinking has to be further promoted to strengthen democracy in every aspect of life as desired by the people. Extreme tolerance and patience are needed to achieve this. All kinds of extremism should be avoided and full respect be shown to the rule of law in every walk of life.

A nonparty caretaker government has been formed in the country as desired and agreed to by all parties. The people hope the parties will honor their pledge to cooperate with this government and respond wholeheartedly to all the steps it might take for smooth elections. The government can fulfill this task easily if the parties cooperate. The caretaker government system was introduced as a result of the consensus among political parties. A conducive political atmosphere must be created to ensure smooth elections. Simultaneously, the democratic culture of tolerance in its true sense must also be promoted.

There should be an end to all kinds of undemocratic behavior, violence, and conflict. Efforts must be made to promote the democratic culture so that every aspect of our national life is governed by democratic values. The people want to see democratic ideas, values, and cultures flourish and take root in the country. The stronger these values become, the smoother and more meaningful the coming election and future ones will be. It will enable Bangladesh to join other countries of the world with greater honor in their endeavors for economic development.

India

India: 2 'Pakistani-Trained Militants' Arrested in Delhi

BK1004002196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Delhi police has arrested two Pakistani—trained Kashmiri militants. One militant belonging to the Hizbul Mujahideen was arrested last night near New Delhi railway station by a joint team of Central District Police and local army intelligence units. On interrogation, he revealed that he was involved in several encounters with army and paramilitary forces. In a press release, the Special Branch said that they arrested another militant from the Jama masjid area. He was trained near Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He was sent back to India fully equipped with arms.

In Jammu and Kashmir, senior Congress-I leader and former member of the state legislative council, Mr. Ghulam Hasan Mir, was killed by militants last night. The assailants came to the residence of Mr. Mir in a village in Pulwama District and shot him dead.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India: Russian Foreign Minister Visit Viewed

BK1004023896 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 Apr 96 p 8

[Article by J.N. Dixit: "Primakov's Visit: Towards Enduring Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ghost of political distances from, and even neglect of India, which characterised former Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's period in the Russian foreign office was laid to rest by his successor Yevgny Primakov by his visit to India between March 29 and 31. Three agreements were signed, one to restore a hot line telephone connection between the Prime Minister's Office and the office of President Yeltsin, a second one on cultural cooperation and the third on expanding scientific and technological cooperation. All the three agreements reflect a process of evolution and restabilisation of Indo-Russian relations.

What is important is the political message inherent in Primakov's visit about the Russian Federation reviving its interest in focussed relations with India after a gap of time. In his very first policy statement after assuming the post of Foreign Minister, Primakov emphasised that Russia would be structuring its foreign policy in a more balanced manner in keeping with its power and interests and that Russia attaches high importance to its relations with India.

The timing of Primakov's visit is also politically noteworthy. He visited India after we had announced the dates of our impending elections. Nominally, foreign governments wait till such elections are over and a new government is in place to send high-level representatives to visit any country. His visit conveyed two messages: first, that Russia has confidence about the political resilience and stability of India; second, that regardless of which party comes to power, Russia proposes to further its many-faceted relations with India. He undertook the visit when he had other preoccupations related to domestic and foreign policy.

Russia has been in internal ferment since the Russian Duma passed a resolution for the reunification of all the CIS countries with the Russian Federation. Primakov is deeply involved in all these events and related policy formulation. That he visited India, despite these preoccupations, is an important and positive foreign policy gesture which we should take note of. He conveyed Russia's interest in consolidating not only political but economic and defence cooperation with India. This is in conformity with Indo-Russian relations gaining stability and momentum after a hiatus of nearly three-and-a-half years. There are reliable reports that not only existing patterns of defence supplies are coming back on track, but that the Russian Federation is in the process of finalising arrangements with India for the supply of a new state of the art defence equipment across the board including transfer of relevant technologies which could lead to the expansion of our defence production industry. This trend is in the strategic and economic interest of the Russian Federation also. Russia is interested in expanding its defence production capacities to find a foothold in foreign markets where possible. A case in point is the report about a consortium of Russian aerospace specialists initiating action to collaborate with the Dutch aircraft manufacturing firm Fokkers which is in economic difficulties. The report indicates that the Russian consortium is willing to make an initial investment of nearly $243 million to revive the Fokkers' manufacturing capacity and to save it from bankruptcy. Well-known Russian aircraft designers like Tupalev and Yakovlev are interested in this exercise. What is interesting is that Russians are in competition with the Boeing aircraft company of the US which has been trying to persuade a large number of Fokker aeronautical engineers (between 300 and 350) to move to its plants in the US to remedy the situation they may face if they get retrenched from Fokkers.

President Yeltsin had clearly articulated his interest in encouraging Indo-Russian cooperation for the joint production of civilian aircraft and other heavy engineering goods when he visited India in 1993. Primakov reportedly reconfirmed this interest. Indo Russian trade which came down from a volume of $ 5.5 billion in 1990 to just a little over $ one billion in 1993 is improving. The current volume of trade is estimated at nearly $3.5 to four billion and is likely to double in volume in the next four years.

Primakov's discussions with Indian leaders manifested a greater understanding on the part of both sides about parallelism in their respective national interests and their similar concerns. Thouth India and Russia have different approaches in dealing with separatist movements in Kashmir and Chechnya respectively, the discussions emphasised the similarity of the predicament which India and Russia face in relation to Kashmir and Chechnya in the context of both countries being plural societies with a multi-ethnic, multilingual polity. Primakov reportedly expressed the view that "the territorial integrity of Russia as also the territorial integrity of India are of priority interest to us (Russia)". Primakov and his high-level Indian interlocutors agreed that terrorism in all forms, religious extremism and separatist movements, poses a threat not only to multi-ethnic multi-religious and multilingual states, but it also constitutes a direct threat to international security and stability.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Primakov is reported to have said that the Russian Government stands by the assurances given by Yeltsin three years ago that Russia respects India's territorial integrity, specially in relation to Jammu and Kashmir and that the Government and people of India should resolve the problem, which is essentially a domestic issue. He agreed with India's views on the irrelevance of the UN resolutions on Kashmir adopted nearly 50 years ago and accepted that controversies with Pakistan should be resolved within the framework of the Simla agreement. He also conveyed that Russia has a positive attitude towards India expanding its relations with the Central Asian Republics and normalising relations with China. In saying this, he was signalling Russia's re-assertion of its pre-1989-90 strategic postures based on responses of Russian threat perceptions with one changed nuance, viz, Russia perceives China as a factor in countering the embryonic revival of Western hegemony on the Eurasian land mass.

These are positive signals, but we must not expect the same kind of political understanding and equation with the Russian Federation which we had with the former Soviet Union. That equation was based on the dynamics of the cold war and the equilibrium sought to be established by India and the Soviet Union at that point of time. Both India and Russia today are faced with a more complex world with multi polar centres of influence and power. Both of us will necessarily forge relations with those centres of power which would be responsive to our respective interests which may not coincide on all points. We should not expect Russia to veto any new UN Security Council resolution on Kashmir if the situation gets out of hand there, degenerating into an open conflict with Pakistan.

Russia has differences of opinion with India on the non-proliferation issue, on the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] and on the transfer of dual-use high technologies. While our economic and technological interests are complementary and are capable of mutual benefit, the policies of both countries on these issues would be subject to international pressures, to which both India and Russia will have to adjust. Russia's economic capacities and political stability are subject to limitations and uncertainties. Indo-Russian relations would, therefore develop on the basis of practicality, reflecting the perceived interests of both countries at given points of time. Primakov's visit was undoubtedly a positive political gesture which augurs well for Indo-Russian relations. Our approach should be to sustain and expand these relations in all aspects, not on the basis of nostalgia, but realism.

India: Test Flight Conducted for Unmanned Reconnaissance Aircraft

BK1004024696 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The developmental flight trial for the remotely piloted vehicle Nishant has been proceeding satisfactorily, as witnessed by the test flying conducted at Kolar in Karnataka today. Gayatri Chandrashekhar, who witnessed the event, has filed this report:

[Begin recording] From the safety of the ground and home base, a pilot can man Nishant, the unmanned air vehicle, at least 100 km to alien territory. He can command the descent and recovery mode from his ground station as it happened today. The 360 kg vehicle is designed for electronic intelligence and reconnaissance for the Indian Army. The vehicle has done a number of sorties in the past year. Flying at 40 to 60 meters per second, Nishant is capable of battlefield surveillance by day and night. It is fitted with sophisticated electro-optic and electronic sensors. The gathered data (?is neatly) in coded form can be sent to home base in real time as soon as it is gathered.

The Aeronautics Development Establishment under the DRDO [Defense Research and Development Organization] is the lead laboratory for the Nishant's development. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been identified as its production agency. [end recording]

India: Space Agency Completes Design of Cryogenic Engine

BK0804102696 Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Apr 96 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has crossed a major hurdle to the development of indigenous cryogenic engine for the flight of the Geostationary Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with the successful completion of the design of a 7.5 tonne engine at its Valiamala complex here.

"Design of the 7.5-tonne cryo upper stage (CUS) meant for launch vehicles capable of putting 2500-kg satellites into orbit has been completed", said Dr, K. Madhavan Nair, Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), the lead centre engaged in the development of cryogenic stages, in an interview.

He said contracts have been signed with two companies — Godrej and Machine Tool Aids and Reconditioning (MTAR) — for fabrication of the 7.5-tonne engine and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

further to that the design drawings have been handed over to them.

He said works on the fabrication of engines in these companies have progressed to a good extent. "Sheets are ready by now and metal cutting would start any time," he added.

Meanwhile, the cryo group of the centre has gone ahead with the task of designing 12 tonnes and 16 tonnes engines capable of putting 3500 kg and 4000 kg class communication satellites into geostationary orbit, Dr. Nair added.

Dr. Nair said the daunting problems in the handling of cryogenic fluids such as cooling systems, injection valves and ignition systems have been successfully handled by the LPSC scientists.

He was hopeful that the engines would be ready, in any case, by the turn of the century to replace the Russian engines. The first Russian cryogenic engine is expected to arrive here by the end of the year for the flight of India's first GSLV carrying a Gramsat late next year or early 1998.

Later three more engines would arrive at intervals of six months. Since the four engines would have been exhausted by 2000, India has to develop its own cryo stage for GSLV flights beyond 2000.

The centre has so far sanctioned Rs.350 crores for the development of indigenous engine, besides the Rs.16 crores sanctioned for the study project in 1986.

Completion of the design of the scale engine and the understanding of critical technologies such as injection valves, ignition systems and cooling systems have given boost to the project which began in 1992, said Dr. Nair.

It may be recalled that the project has been seriously pursued only since the middle of 1992 after the Russians went back on their earlier commitment of providing cryogenic technology along with the three engines.

Realisation of cryogenic technology even by 2000 would be a shot in the arm for the Indian space programme as all other countries possessing this intricate technology have taken at least 10 years for its development, Dr. Nair felt.

The cryogenic engine designed by the LPSC scientists has a 2.8 meter diameter, 9.1 meter height and employs 12.5 tonnes of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen as propellants. "It would be a restart able engine with a specific impulse of 461 seconds burning for 740 seconds capable of developing a thrust of 7.5 tonnes," Dr. Nair said.

Isolation valve developed

However, ISRO faced a setback when it tried to test fire a one tonne engine in July 1993 employing cryo-cooled liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen as propellants the engine exploded.

Analysis of the failure of the one tonne engine proved that the failure was caused because the engine was fired without an isolation valve.

Dr. Nair said his team subsequently succeeded developing the isolation valve.

India: Commentary Views Sino-Pakistan Nuclear Cooperation

BK1004002696 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Apr 96

[Commentary by C. Raja Mohan, THE HINDU strategic affairs editor]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Revelations are continuing to pour out in the American media on the depth and breadth of China's assistance to Pakistan in the field of nuclear weapon development, yet the Clinton Administration appears reluctant to fully implement its own domestic laws against such international cooperation. The apparent American decisions to limit the mandatory sanctions against China and go through with the proposed transfer of $368 million worth of arms to Pakistan despite the Sino-Pakistan infringement of its laws make a mockery of the professed American commitment against the spread of nuclear weapons and missiles.

Beijing's recent transfer to Islamabad of 5,000 ring magnets that could boost Pakistan's efforts to produce weapons-grade uranium is only one minor element of long and enduring strategic nuclear cooperation between the two countries. The cooperation dates back to the mid-1960's when China and Pakistan began negotiations on bilateral nuclear weapons cooperation. A broad-ranging agreement was signed in 1976. The then prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, later claimed in his death cell that establishing the nuclear connection with China was his greatest contribution to Pakistan.

The most significant aspect of this cooperation was the Chinese transfer of the complete design data on a nuclear warhead to Pakistan in the early 1980's. Reports on such a transfer had appeared in the mid-1980's in the Western media, and recent accounts confirm that the design information related to the warhead China had tested in 1967. This nuclear warhead can be carried atop a missile. China also appears to have extensively cooperated with Pakistan in the production

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the key ingredients of nuclear weapons — highly enriched uranium and plutonium. In the early 1970's, Pakistan had secretly initiated the construction of a centrifuge plant to produce highly enriched uranium. While Pakistan smuggled key equipment from across Western Europe, cooperation with China is said to be a key element in the successful completion of the plant.

Until now Pakistan has relied on the uranium root to build its nuclear arsenal. In the last couple of years, there has been growing evidence that China is now assisting Pakistan in the production of plutonium that could allow Pakistan to build more sophisticated nuclear weapons. In what appears to be a total violation of its commitment under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, China is helping Pakistan build an unsafeguarded plutonium production reactor at Khushab. Beijing is also reportedly assisting Islamabad in setting up a reprocessing plant at Chashma that could extract weapons grade plutonium from the spent fuel discharged by the Khushab reactor. Both the reactor and the reprocessing plant are said to be ready to begin their operations.

China's strategic cooperation with Pakistan has been both extensive and enduring. Besides providing Pakistan with the full range of critical capabilities required to build a nuclear arsenal, China has also transferred key nuclear delivery systems. Chinese assistance to Pakistan has included broad cooperation in the field of missile development and, in particular, the transfer of medium-range missiles called M-11. The transfer of M-11 missile components and associated equipment has transformed Pakistan into a full- fledged nuclear weapons state.

Despite the overwhelming evidence on Sino-Pakistan nuclear and missile cooperation collected by the American intelligence agencies, the Clinton Administration has been reluctant to make a formal determination on Chinese nuclear and missile transfers to Pakistan. Such a determination would mandate severe sanctions against China and Pakistan under American law. The United States, apprehensive about further souring of relations with China and keen on reviving political cooperation with Pakistan, is unwilling to implement its own laws on nonproliferation.

The record of enduring Sino-Pakistan nuclear cooperation and the American inability to respond to it are likely to transform India's own national security debate. It is increasingly becoming clear that New Delhi cannot base its security calculations either on the professed nonproliferation commitments of the great powers or on the belief they will honor international arms control arrangements.

India: Kashmir 'Migrants' To Be Allowed To Vote

BK0904110096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arrangements are being worked out to enable about 98,000 migrants from Kashmir to cast their votes at their place of living. The state chief electoral officer, Mr. J.A. Khan, told AIR correspondent that a contingency plan is being drawn up to meet any eventuality to ensure a smooth polling in the state. The state director general of police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, in an interview to Radio Kashmir in Srinagar said that adequate security arrangements have been made for the candidates and poll officials. He said law and order machinery has been geared up to meet any situation.

India: Article Views CTBT, Nuclear Deterrence

BK0904025796 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Apr 96 p 8

[Article by K. Sundarji: "CTBT and National Security Options for India"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States' CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] juggernaut is on the roll. Going by the way the permanent extension of the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] was bulldozed through, one may expect a similar result in the case of the CTBT as well. The fact is that most of the countries do not feel as strongly on these issues as India and a few other nuclear-capable countries do. It is true that the NPT is discriminatory, and legitimises nuclear weapons in the hands of the five Nuclear Brahmins. The CTBT will also be pushed through without a time-bound commitment to nuclear disarmament, irrespective of India's stance. What should India do?

Before one can take a cogent view of this, the impact of various options on our national security has to be reviewed. Some commentators have taken the view that a small minimum nuclear deterrent with simple fission weapons would not serve our purpose, and that a larger nuclear arsenal and the right to future testing would be essential if India's national security needs are to be met.

Most of them real their arguments on the explicit or implicit assumption that minimum nuclear deterrence apparently does not work; why else would the big powers have gone in for such a large and varied inventory of nuclear weapon systems? The recent French tests and the Chinese wanting to delay the CTBT till they are good and ready, make some believe that there must be some rationale for these and hence testing may be important for us. However, French and Chinese rationales have not been analysed, nor have their applicability to the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Indian case studied. Some in the scientific community want to hang on to the right to test because of wanting to demonstrate Indian prowess. A few commentators have also gone to the extent of suggesting that some of us whose honest views in this case happen to be similar to those of the US are 'Uncle Toms'! I for one resent the arm twisting of India by the US as much as any other Indian citizen, but I refuse to give up my professional convictions either to climb on the bandwagon of populist opinion on India's stand on the CTBT or for fear of being seen as an apologist for the US.

At the other end of the spectrum are critics who claim that while a nuclear deterrent might be an essential national security requirement for India, the country cannot afford the financial burden or the societal costs of going nuclear. By implication some of them, though in a minority, suggest that we could sign the CTBT. The fact is that we have thus far not articulated alternative nuclear deterrent doctrines that might meet Indian requirements. I have done a certain amount of writing on a minimum deterrence doctrine based on a second strike on a handful of cities of the aggressor who makes the first strike on us. I have seen hardly any writing on alternative nuclear doctrines. Without frameworks of alternative nuclear deterrent doctrines, the contours of the nuclear force structure that India would need to underpin each doctrine cannot be visualised. Without such visualisation, any debate on the costs of nuclear deterrence in the Indian context would involve highly subjective assessments and have little value.

I will now do a broad brush calculation of the costs of the type of nuclear deterrence that I have been recommending for India. I have argued earlier, that having received a first strike, if we can mount a nuclear attack on five Pakistani or 10 Chinese cities, the amount of damage would be ample for deterrence. The number of warheads that would be adequate per city in my view, would be three fission warheads of 20 kiloton each, detonated as low air bursts. We all know what damage was done by a single 14 to 20 kiloton warhead in the case of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For a total of 15 cities we would need 45 warheads to survive an adversary first strike. Different modes of dispersal and deployment would give us varying survival quotients and could produce differences of perception, but a low estimate of 90 weapons and an upper estimate of 135 weapons would be reasonable. Adequate numbers would survive the first strike.

For costing I will use a higher figure of 150 warheads and an inflated cost of Rs [rupees] 4 crore each (one must remember that fissile material costs are sunk costs). The total warhead cost would thus be Rs 600 crore. In terms of delivery means, nuclear-capable aircraft are already part of the conventional inventory and do not add to the cost of nuclear deterrence. I will therefore only compute the costs of the Prithvi and Agni missile systems. We would need to end up with at least 15 usable Prithvis for five Pakistani cities, after we have received a first strike and taken some damage to our retaliatory capability. I assume that we need a starting figure of 45 Prithvis. Not taking credit for Prithvis produced for conventional operations, and again using an inflated estimate of Rs 8 crore per Prithvi launcher system, this would total Rs 360 crore. For 10 Chinese cities, we need 30 Agni systems to survive the first strike. I shall use a starting figure of 90 launchers. Using a high-cost estimate of Rs 20 crore per Agni launcher system, it would come to Rs 1,800 crore. Command and control and other such costs are common to conventional force requirements and are not to be taken as incremental costs. The overall cost would be about Rs 2,760 crore, and this would be about 10 per cent of the defence budget or approximately 0.03 per cent of the GDP.

Having carried out a very broad survey of the need and probable cost of a nuclear minimum deterrent we may review India's options. The first option is to sign the CTBT without insisting on tying it to nuclear disarmament. If we do not let our resentment of American arrogance get the better of us or let moral issues weigh unduly heavily, I believe that this option would be the best, purely from the Indian national security point of view.

The second option is to continue negotiating and insist that unless the treaty is firmly tied to a time bound nuclear disarmament programme, it should not be passed. Perhaps this could be justified on moral grounds, but just by taking for granted that a CTBT as currently proposed is only a non-proliferation ploy and also by taking as 'given', the perfidy of the nuclear five and especially that of the US. This may give us a nice warm feeling of having done the right thing. Nonetheless, there will be many in the world who would assume with some reason, that India was cynically ready to sabotage an agreement that might lead to a less dangerous world and even eventual universal nuclear disarmament. I believe that it is unnecessary for us to put ourselves in this odious position.

The third option would be to state all our objections squarely and these would include:

— Our doubts about the bona fides of the nuclear powers in respect of universal nuclear disarmament.

— The fact that the present treaties do nothing to fairly investigate the nuclear powers' own actions that go

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

against the letter and spirit of non-proliferation and arms control, and have no teeth to ensure accountability.

— The fact that this is going to affect our security. The nuclear assistance of the Chinese to Pakistan is a good example, and should be highlighted. The US's attitude to Pakistan's and Israel's nuclear programmes does not also engender any faith in either the honesty, objectivity or continuity of its non-proliferation and arms control policies and practices.

Thereafter, we may opt out of the current discussions in Geneva, and not sign the CTBT but do nothing to hinder its adoption. This course might be the best from a point of view that takes account of moral and ethical urges, national security compulsions and political sale ability.

India: Article Views Pakistan's Nuclear Program, U.S. 'Game'

BK1004035496 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 8 Apr 96 p 6

[Article by Ranjit Kumar: "Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb and the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although Pakistan has been vigorously pursuing its nuclear program from the beginning of the last decade and has been speedily advancing towards the creation of a nuclear weapon, and despite the abundant, clear evidence of its implementation of this ambitious program, the U.S. Administration has taken no solid steps to make Pakistan forego it. Since the United States had launched a campaign against nuclear nonproliferation all over the world, it was expected to put pressure on Pakistan to stop its nuclear program, as it did with North Korea. But instead of taking effective measures to punish Pakistan for this illegitimate activity, the United States, on the contrary, decided to resume its supply of arms to Pakistan and develop closer defense ties with it by giving it all sorts of help. The U.S. excuse is that by doing this it can maintain its hold over Pakistan, which will then put it in a position to make Pakistan shelve its nuclear program. However, contrary to the U.S. intention, Pakistan is speedily implementing its nuclear program. Moreover, the United States seems to be openly ignoring Pakistan's nuclear designs.

Before the controversy related to the PRC's supply of 5000 ring magnets to Pakistan about two months ago had lost its heat, the WASHINGTON POST, came up with yet another stalling disclosure — attributing its source to the U.S. Administration — that the United states knew in the mid-1980's that Pakistan possessed a nuclear weapon. The United States became aware of this fact from the recovery of certain documents based on Chinese designs for the creation of a nuclear weapon found in the suitcase of Pakistan's ace nuclear scientist, Dr Abdul Quadi. The U.S. Administration deliberately hid this information from the U.S. Congress and took no measures to force Pakistan to stop its nuclear weapons program. During the period when the United States was resisting the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, Pakistan was playing the role of an effective U.S. tool to further U.S. interests. This compelled the United States to temporarily shelve its drive against nuclear proliferation and deliberately ignore Pakistan's nuclear ambitions .

After this startling disclosure by the WASHINGTON POST, the sensational news emerged last week that Pakistan has been receiving liberal help from China for its nuclear program by getting the required nuclear material and plants, etc. exported from China. Not only has China been the main source of nuclear supplies for Pakistan, it is also helping Pakistan to install a plutonium reactor near Chashma, where Pakistan plans to manufacture small nuclear explosives that can be fitted to war planes or ballistic missiles and dropped over enemy territory.

There is no doubt that Pakistan's continued efforts to produce nuclear weapons with China's liberal help violate the various rules and regulations of the U.S. campaign against nuclear proliferation as well as the nuclear treaties. But the childish pleas that the United States offers to justify its ignoring of Pakistan's nuclear designs create serious doubts in India aoout the sincerity of the much-vaunted U.S. intentions to curb nuclear proliferation. This is entirely natural. Overlooking the Chinese supply of the ring magnets to Pakistan on the plea that the Chinese Government is unaware of this deal, highlights the hollowness of the U.S. nuclear nonproliferation policy. If the United States really wants to continue its crusade effectively against nuclear proliferation all over the world, it has got to shed its partisan attitude and enforce nonproliferation rules without prejudice or predilection. The people of India cannot accept the hollow pleas that in order to have better military relations, the United States can develop closer relations with Pakistan and overlook Pakistan's nuclear program but at the same time maintain unrelenting pressure on India to sign the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The main Indian worry is not that these discriminatory nuclear treaties will keep the nuclear powers ever endowed with nuclear weapons, but that with Chinese help and the United States deliberately turning a blind eye towards Pakistan's nuclear ambitions, Pakistan will definitely become a country possessing nuclear weapons. The hypocrisy of the U.S. nuclear nonproliferation policy is exposed when it tries to pull wool over the eyes

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the rest of the world by claiming that China's help to Pakistan has not been officially substantiated.

Moreover, the stance adopted by India in the ongoing CTBT negotiations in Geneva is gaining increasing strength and conviction from the startling disclosures of Pakistan's speedy implementation of its nuclear program and the fact that the latter is undaunted by the United States' knowledge of its nuclear ambitions, because the United States is deliberately turning a blind eye to them. The Indian suspicion that all these nuclear treaties are just a facade created by the United States to deprive countries like India of nuclear power is increasingly being confirmed. India is clearly seeing through the U.S. game of making India's close neighbor, Pakistan, a nuclear power with secret Chinese help. This way, sandwiched between the two nuclear powers, Pakistan and China, India will be so demoralized by the two-fold military pressure that it will be thoroughly incapacitated and never be in a position to raise its head and challenge any power in the world. Thus, the U.S. game is aimed precisely at forever crippling India militarily. The United States is taking no action against Pakistan's nuclear program because Pakistan has always been its protege, and to serve its larger military interests the United States wants Pakistan to ever remain a pawn in its game of aggrandizement.

Similarly, the United States can never dare take any action against China, which is not only a redoubtable military power in its own right but an economic power as well. That is why before planning any action against China, it is nervous at the prospect of China taking retaliatory action. Whenever any disclosure is made about the close nuclear relations between China and Pakistan, the United States only manages to issue hollow threats and after feigning serious worries keeps a conveniently low profile. It is this selfish U.S. attitude that will cause the eventual failure of the CTBT negotiations in Geneva. It is eminently clear now that the United States is dishonest in its crusade against nuclear nonproliferation and has insufficient will power to be truthful. This is clearly apparent in the fact that China is developing close nuclear relations with Pakistan and the United States is not making any honest effort to break the unholy alliance. Its delaying tactics and attempts to evade the issue reveal not only its inability to prevent Pakistan becoming a nuclear power but also its tacit connivance in bringing this about.

India: Editorial on Confused Political Spectrum

BK1004044496 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 8 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "The Hazy Election Panorama]

[FBIS Translated Text] The electoral battle for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in states such as Uttar Pradesh (UP), Tamil Nadu and Gujarat appears quite complex and confusing. UP has faced seven elections almost in a row during the last seven years, but a political equilibrium still does not appear possible in that most populous state. At present, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) is the biggest power there, and its main confrontation is with the Janata Dal-Samajwadi Party (JD-SP) alliance and with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). The political consciousness that has emerged there on account of the social polarization and the caste-based politics is so incisive that it gives a clue as what the eventual outcome might be. During the last assembly election, the main confrontation was between the BJP on one side and the JD, SP, and the BSP on the other. But then the alliance was between the BSP and SP. In that election the loser was the BJP. The number of seats that the BJP might now capture will be decided on how the voters for the SP, BSP and JD caste their votes. In Madhya Pradesh the last of the Congress-I stalwarts are now out of the ruling party. The four pillars of the Congress-I in this state were Arjun Singh, Kamal Nath, Madhava Rao Scindia, and Vidyacharan Shukla. The three of them have already collapsed while the fourth one is developing a serious crack. The entire edifice now depends on the charisma of Chief Minister Digvijay Singh. Hence, to predict which party will get how many seats is a very hazardous job.

The Congress's decision to forge an alliance with Jayalalitha's AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] has let loose such a thunderous storm there that the rising dust still makes it impossible to have a clear picture of the position of the Congress-I led by Narasimha Rao. Following the resignation of Moopanar, Chidambaram and Arunachalam from the Congress-I and their alliance with the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], it can be surmised that most of the Lok Sabha seats will be captured by Karunanidhi and the Front. But then this conclusion could be hasty because Jayalalitha's charisma can't be overlooked altogether. Besides, a section of the voters there are traditional supporters of the ruling Congress-I and their impact can't be ignored either. At present, Gujarat is held to be the stronghold of the BJP, but the rebel leader, Shankar Singh Vaghela, severely damaged its strong ramparts. The effectiveness of the Vaghela factor is still the crunch that will decide the final outcome of the elec-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

toral battle there. Owing to the uncertainty and political haze that is enveloping these four prominent states, the whole country's political panorama seems lost in confusion. It is also difficult to predict how any party will fare in these elections because no national issue seems to be gaining the favor of the masses. The Congress-I is bent on singing paeans to eulogize its success on the economic front and striving hard to advertise the same through a variety of means. However, it is too premature to claim this is having the desired effect on the people. The BJP, for all practical purposes, seems to be devoid of any fire brand issues, while all the non-Congress-I and non-BJP powers look scattered and withered.

India: Poll Said To Indicate 'Hung Parliament'

BK0904090196 Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian electorate in the first week after the declaration of elections seems torn. The first round of the National Election Study 1996 (NES'96) covering 9,705 respondents in 108 Lok Sabha constituencies suggests that the Congress [INC] may be headed for its worst-ever electoral performance in terms of its votes share: yet there is no sign of any intense anti-Congress sentiment. Likewise although an overwhelming majority of the electorate dislike coalition governments their voting intentions make a coalition government at the Centre inevitable. And while the voters confidence in the ability of political parties to solve their problems is low their identification with parties has grown.

Fate of the parties

There is bad news for Congress. Using a classical opinion polling technique our investigators asked all the respondents (whether they had or not made up their mind) who they would vote for if the Lok Sabha elections were to take place the next day. They were given a dummy ballot paper carrying the names and symbols of all the major parties of the State, asked to stamp the party of their choice and put it in a sealed dummy ballot box so as to ensure the secrecy of their voting preference. If the Lok Sabha elections had been held during the survey, the Congress would have polled only 32.6 per cent votes, a fall of more than four per cent from its performance in the 1991 Lok Sabha elections. In fact, if it happens it will be the lowest vote share for Congress in any general elections since Independence. Even in 1977, when it got an electoral drubbing, the Congress managed to secure 34.5 per cent of the votes. The downward journey of the party began in 1989 (when its share of vote shrank from 48 per cent in the previous elections to 39.5 per cent). The trend continued through 1991 (36.9 per cent) and the three rounds of Assembly elections held in 16 States between 1993 and 1995 (the Congress vote in these States fell from 35 per cent to 28 per cent). The context of national elections seems to have increased the Congress votes a little from the level it touched in the Assembly elections.

The situation can actually get worse for the Congress. The survey indicates that the potential swing against Congress can be more than four per cent. If that happens, Congress vote may come down to around 30 per cent in the coming elections, an eventuality which may have dramatic implications for the future of Indian politics. One must wait, however, for the mid campaign surveys for a better insight on this issue.

The BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] popular support has increased. A jump from the unexpected 20 per cent vote it garnered in 1991 to 25 per cent this time might not be the Hanuman leap BJP had wished, but it is a solid political gain. Its recent squabbles and open faction-fighting may have slowed down its pace, but these do not seem to have affected its existing support base significantly. The same is true of the BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party]. A vote share of about five per cent may not look impressive when compared to the bigger political parties, but it represents nearly a three-fold increase over its 1991 vote share of 1.8 per cent. It remains to be seen if the BSP can translate these additional votes into a larger number of Lok Sabha seats. Barring a few regions, it is still well below the threshold of electoral success.

The Left appears to have made marginal gains in its vote share, but there is no indication of any major expansion in its support base. The Janata Dal has fallen a little since 1991, largely due to the erosion of support for it in U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] But it has held on to its other strongholds like Bihar. It has certainly not recovered the large areas it lost to the BJP in 1991.

What about seats?

Given the low level of information and uncertain voting preferences, it is premature to attempt a precise prediction of the number of Lok Sabha seats for different parties. Since a large proportion of the electorate has not made up its mind, their voting intention is at best a rough indicator of their actual voting on the poll day. These intentions reflect the more enduring party loyalties and preferences before the beginning of the campaign. Many short term considerations can still intervene. Besides, it is not our objective in the National Election Study to make seats predictions. But it is safe to draw the following two conclusions from the data on vote share:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

First, we are headed for yet another hung Parliament. If the predicted share of votes for different parties do not change, no single party will get a clear majority. The new Lok Sabha will also be more fragmented than the one constituted in 1991.

Second, some broad interferences about the major parties are possible. A loss of more than four per cent vote will mean significant loss of seats for the Congress from its tally of 244 in the 1991 elections. Conversely, a rise in the BJP's votes will mean a significant gain over its totally of 120 seats in 1991.

It is unlikely that the seats tally of the left combine will change dramatically, but JD's [Janata Dal] share of seats may shrink somewhat.

Will the Congress remain the largest single party despite the significant loss of seats? Or will the BJP overtake it? As yet, these are open questions. Securing the largest share of votes is by itself no guarantee of winning the largest number of seats. The outcome of U.P. Assembly elections of 1993 and Maharashtra Assembly elections of 1995 illustrated once again that the party with the largest chunk of votes may still come second in the race for seats. Since the Congress votes are spread more evenly all over the country than the BJP, whose votes are concentrated in a few states, it is in principle possible for the BJP to emerge as the largest party in Parliament on the basis of the vote share projected here. But it is too early to say anything with certainty at this stage. Precise predictions about seats cannot he made on the basis of national figures for vote share or vote swings. For that, one must take the states and, within the major States, the regions as units of analysis.

The game is open

The survey was carried out between March 20-27. The field work began the day after the announcement of election dates and ended on the first day of nominations. Results show that 37.1 per cent electors had not even heard of the Lok Sabha elections when our investigators approached them. However, the Level of the awareness was much higher in the six States where Assembly elections are also being held simultaneously. The awareness was lower in Bihar (51.5 per cent). Naturally, such awareness has much to do with formal education. Practically all (95.9 per cent) those who have completed graduation had heard about the elections. while only 45.2 per cent of the illiterates did. The gap in the level of awareness between men (74.6 per cent) and women (51.3 per cent) is wide and the level is low among the Scheduled Tribes (45.9 per cent). Obviously, one can speak of 'public opinion' on this election in a meaningful manner only after the campaign aging and the channels of political communication and globilisation get activised.

Although confident predictions about the precise outcome of the elections have already begun, the game is far more open than it appears. The pollsters or psephologists seem to be more confident of the voters' choice than the voters themselves. Our survey asked if the respondents had made up their mind about who to vote for in the coming elections. Nearly 45 per cent said they had not

There are important differences between States on this issue. There are States where the alignment of voters with political parties is very high and stable. A majority of voters have made up their mind in Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal. The voters in these States have been crystallised in the recent past around major political parties or alliances. On the other hand, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have an unusually higher percentage of voters who have not made up their mind. It is also important that women, Scheduled Tribes and, significantly, Muslims are considerably less sure about who to vote for at this stage. The political strategies and campaigners for various political parties will have to focus their attention on these States and Sections of society, if they want their efforts to pay off. It is not that those who have riot made up their mind are waiting for greater exposure to campaign issues etc., or that they do not have political leanings. The crucial challenge is to mobilise these potential non-voters into turning out on the polling day. A large chunk of undecided — and hence potentially floating — voters in some States means that there could be large-scale shifts in voters' preference for parties. In some cases it is a sign of tactical voting. It is also the first sign of a surprise electoral outcome.

Such a large proportion of undecided voters does not, however, make the following analysis of party-wise support at the national and State level useless. The voting preferences as revealed in our survey do not differ greatly between those who have and those who have not made up their mind. The percentage of those who have made up their mind among the potential Congress voters is 61.4, a little above the national average while the BJP is close to the average at 57.4. A great proportion of voters for the left are sure (65.7 per cent) than the voters for the Janata Dal and allies (50 per cent) or the BSP (52.9 per cent). The differences need to be kept in mind but they do not warrant a dismissiveness towards the voting intentions analysed.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Voting intentions 1996 (per cent)

Party	Vote share (expected) 1996 Survey	Vote share (actual) 1991 Election	Expected swing
INC	32.6	36.9	-4.3
BJP	25.0	20.9	+4.1
JD	9.2	11.8	+2.6
Left Front	9.8	9.6	+0.2
BSP	4.9	1.8	+3.1

Note: 1. BJP's share includes Shiv Sena. LF [Left Front] includes CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI(M)[Marxist], RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] and Forward Bloc. 2. The expected vote share has been arrived at alter correcting the original survey data to eliminate over-reporting for the Congress and other dominant parties. The unadjusted scores were: Congress: 37.1 percent; BJP: 22.9 percent; JD: 8.4 percent; LF:10.1 percent and RSP: 4.4 percent. Total Respondents: 9705. Refusals (11.9) excluded; others not shown here

Prime Ministerial Choice Narasimha Rao (37.1%) Kanshi Ram (2.8%) A.B. Vajpayee (16.0%) Jyoti Basu (3.3%) Mulayam (4.0%) Laloo Yadav (4.1%) V.P. Singh (5.7%) L.K. Advani (7.4%) Others (19.7%)

India: Article on Financial Effects of Nuclear Issue

BK0904043096 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 6 Apr 96 p 6

[Article by Jyoti Malhotra: "Does India Dare?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian Space Research Organisation's [ISRO] textbook perfect PSLV launch from Sriharikota two weeks ago could well have had India's top space scientists mulling over T.S. Eliot's famous lines: "Do I dare\as I stand upon the topmost stair\do I dare\disturb the universe?"

Eliot's verse is now India's dilemma. Can New Delhi take on competing — or even antagonist — powers in commerce or defence? Does it want to? For example, if BARC's [Brabha Atomic Research Center] top scientists dug two holes in 1974, only one of which was used to carry out a peaceful nuclear explosion, does the political establishment want to make use of the second pit today?

Those answers and others, now, rest with the next prime minister, the nation's 11th. Whatever his compulsions, it may gladden his heart to know that India's economic baptism by fire over the last five years has meant an international acknowledgement of this country's vast market — even a grudging acceptance that New Delhi could well invoke its right to keep commercial and security issues apart.

India's coming of age was amply demonstrated at the recently concluded meeting of the U.S.-India commercial alliance, when big time entrepreneurs asserted they were coming here with the unabashed purpose of making money.

New Delhi, they implied, could explode another nuclear device, perfect its missile programme, go ahead with its space agenda. Neither did their own government's possible sanctions really matter in the hypothetical event of India charting aggressive security plans. Just so long as New Delhi remained foreign investor-friendly.

"Trade should never be linked with sanctions. Trade should never be linked with lots of issues like that (nuclear, space, etc.) in my opinion and that's a general opinion of the (American) business community," said Harry C. Stonecipher, president and CEO of McDonnell Douglas Corp, one of the largest aircraft manufacturers in the world.

His avowal is significant as it comes close in the wake of intense lobbing by the U.S. business community against the application of sanctions on China — even though the Pentagon has admitted that Beijing broke U.S. law by transferring nuclear-related material to Pakistan. The particular U.S. law, called the Nuclear- Proliferation Prevention Act (NPPA) of 1994, not only cuts off all Export-Import Bank financing for U.S. business deals in the event, but also bans military contacts and inflicts other heavy trade- related penalties.

Says James Moorhouse, CEO of Westinghouse India, whose company wants to invest in the power generation sector here: "India is a mega market. Whoever comes to power after the elections, will have to look at outside business. Our market is secure. Business is an imperfect weapon to deal with issues like human rights and security matters, as has been demonstrated over and over again."

The NPPA seems to be a significant worry at the Centre, so far restraining any hawkish moves. A separate fear relates to the fact that the maintenance of a nuclear programme will inevitably draw money away from already scarce resources in social sectors like education and health.

The major restraining factor so far, however, has been the fear that the U.S. will use every rule in the book and outside to isolate India and portray it as another

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"rogue" nation —just like Iraq, Iran, Libya and North Korea. Not only will all bilateral aid be cut off, but the U.S. will try and block all major sources of multilateral funding. Internally, too, analysts say, the U.S. will have little compunction in stirring up the Kashmir pot if they even smell talk of a nuclear blast.

The anti-nuclear school in government feels that if India needs to flex its muscles "it should use the economic route to do so." India's foreign exchange reserves still stand at a paltry $17 billion compared to $75 billion in China, these officials point out, and if multilateral funding is cut-off its unclear how — and whether — Indians are willing to bear the pinch. "Every dollar of foreign investment must be welcomed because it only adds to the nation's capital base," one official added.

Other most notably nuclear scientists and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] ideologues, argue that the nation must decide what its priorities are. Says Brajesh Mishra, convenor of the external affairs cell of the BJP: "We believe that the Congress government has neglected the security of our country. They don't have a sense of India as a big country, what its global role should be, what it can do." Not only did the Congress succumb to U.S. pressure on the development of the Agni and Prithvi missiles, he added, but it also put into cold storage preparatory plans to explode a nuclear device late last year.

An analysis conducted by nuclear affairs analyst G Balachandran on this subject concludes that sanctions can have an impact only if the U.S. was "able to mobilise total support from a number of other countries in Europe and Japan."

According to the study, the U.S. can impose seven types of sanctions if India goes nuclear:

1) All assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall be terminated. (2) All sales of military articles as well as licences for export of munitions shall be terminated. (3) All foreign military financing shall be terminated. (4) Any credits, credit guarantees and other financial assistance shall be denied. (5) In accordance with Section 701 other International Financial Institutions Act, extension of any loan of financial and technical assistance shall be opposed. (6) Any U.S. bank shall be prohibited from giving any loans or credits. (7) Exports of specific goods and technology will be prohibited under the Export Administration Act of 1979.

The probable effects of the sanctions were also studied:

1) While the U.S. was a major donor in earlier years, there is now a net transfer of resources from India to the U.S. since debt servicing charges are much higher than inflows. For example, debt servicing has gone up from Rs [rupees] 200 crore to Rs 600 crore in the decade from 1984-85.

2) Sales of military goods under the foreign military sales programme have been negligible, averaging less than $200,000 between 1984-1993, while the ongoing Indo-U.S. defence cooperation programme costs another $240,000 annually. Most buys are defence R&D projects like the LCA project; overall sales fell off to a mere $10 million in 1993 because most items ordered have been delivered.

3) There has been no U.S. financing of military sales to India since the early 1960s.

4) This refers primarily to financing by the U.S. Exim bank and the OPIC which have extended guarantees to projects like Enron and Reliance-Dupont. Sources say the loans amounted to about $1.2 billion last year.

5) While this is a serious matter, the effect of the U.S. threat is dependent on many factors. For example, after India exploded a nuclear device in 1974, the U.S. opposed more than 26 consecutive credits over three years. The opposition had no effect because of its limited votes in institutions like the IBRD and the IDA (around 17 percent). Even if the U.S. was able to mobilise support, it could only block fresh loans. Typically, 80 per cent and more disbursements are from loans approved two or more years before, so impact of stoppage is usually delayed.

6) The Indian Government has not taken any loans from U.S. commercial banks or from any other country.

7) Since India is not a signatory to the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], it is already subject to a far more severe export control regime. Despite an MOU on export of technology and goods signed in 1984, the U.S. has continued to obstruct Indian purchases.

Scientists in the Defence Research and Development Organisation also point to the "Indian computer story", which they call a perfect example of the reverse impact of a denial regime: after the U.S. imposed conditionalities of "non-nuclear" use on the Cray-XMP super computer in 1988, Indian scientists began efforts to develop parallel processing super computers.

By 1992, PARAM computers were being exported to Canada, Germany and Russia. In November 1994, it was displayed at a Super computing '94' fair in Washington and in March 1995, Cray filed for bankruptcy. In April 1995, India put the PARAM on its list of items requiring an export licence. In October the same year the U.S. markedly relaxed controls on computers to India.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India: Editorial Views Trade Deficit, Foreign Investment

BK0804123596 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 5 Apr 96 p 18

[Editorial: "Trading Places"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commerce ministry had predicted the financial year end trade deficit would not be much higher than the third quarter's figure of $3.29 billion. However, the figure for the first 11 months of 1995-96 is $4.3 billion. This can be safely extrapolated to $4.5 billion for the year end. The ministry's hope that imports will slow down and exports accelerate has not materialised. Imports grew by more than 29 per cent during the April to February period in 1995-96, with the same period in 1994-95 as the base. A similar comparison for exports shows their growth rate was a little over 21 per cent. The mismatch raises three questions. First, to what extent can import intensive industrial growth be sustained. Second, what is the manner of financing the deficit. And, third, why are exports slowing down. The jump in the deficit from $1.8 billion in 1994-95 to the now likely figure of $4.5 billion means industrial growth does portend a problem. Answers need not be sought in outright import restrictions. They produce their own distortions. Input-output matrices of some of the leading industrial performers — automobiles, for example — are a better guide. The government may have to reconsider the efficacy of promoting industries with a high import content. Dampening the fervour will both reprioritise domestic investment and help the deficit.

If, in the short term at least, such strategic intervention is unlikely, the question of financing the deficit becomes more important. Foreign exchange reserves are down to about $16 billion, and foreign institutional investors [FII] still hold the card. FIIs' fair weather character has been mentioned ad nauseum. But that does not undo the importance of the characteristic. Reworking the ceilings on FII investment in domestic companies might help. And questions about ownership should not be allowed to affect the decision. But the best way to insure against FII inflow volatility is to promote direct foreign investment. Unfortunately, that, too, is a medium term project, both because of the number and kind of changes required in the foreign investment regime and the response time of foreign companies. Thus, a balance of payments crisis during 1996-97 is possible. Had exports been performing better fears on this count would have been less. However, transport and power problems have already hit Indian exporters, especially in the high value added categories. Incentives and even competitive exchange rates will be of limited help in a situation where infrastructural backup is not up to the mark. Countering this problem is as difficult as the other two.

Iran

Iran: Foreign Ministry Asks Turkey To Recall 4 Diplomats

LD1004143696 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday [10 April] asked the Turkish Government to terminate the mission of four Turkish diplomats in Iran and recall them to Ankara.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that such a decision was taken as a result of the failure of the Turkish diplomats to observe the diplomatic norms in Iran.

Several espionage networks led by some Turkish diplomats have recently been discovered in Tehran, Tabriz and Orumiyeh.

Iran: Daily Urges Ankara To Return to Fold of Islamic Countries

LD1104094296 Tehran IRNA in English 0736 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA — An English daily Thursday [11 April] editorialized on new Turkish-Israeli alliance saying, it poses a serious threat to regional security as it gives a free hand to the Zionist regime's reconnaissance and surveillance planes to penetrate into the airspace of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

As to the recent Ankara-Tel Aviv military accord, 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote that Turkey should realize that since the Zionist regime is practically at war with Syria and Lebanon, the accord is in effect tantamount to stabbing them in the back.

"If Ankara has signed the accord with the aim of moving closer to the west, its move has alienated it from Muslim and Arab countries."

One of the immediate outcomes of the accord is the Turkish Government's attempt to appease the arch-enemy of Islam, the Zionist regime, by distancing itself from the Muslim world, it said adding, the recent Turkish Government decision to ask Iran to recall four of its diplomats is an instance of such attempts.

It further proposed that it is not in Turkey's interest to get closer to the Zionist regime at the cost of undermining its long-term relations with its neighbors.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rather than appeasing the Zionist regime, Ankara should turn to the fold of the Islamic countries, it concluded.

Iran: Turkish Moves To Bolster Ties to Israel Criticized

LD1004172796 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 7 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The recent agreement signed by Turkey and Israel, according to which Zionist planes will be allowed to train over Turkey and use Turkish military bases, is yet another indications of the extent to which the pro-Western Turkish politicians are involved in anti-regional plans which go against the interests of Ankara's neighbours.

It is worthy to note the remarks of Turkish Defence Minister Oltan Sungurlu who told the MA'ARIV daily that the arrangements were not unusual considering that his government had also permitted some NATO partners to use facilities in Turkey.

It's an established fact that the water crisis between Turkey on the one hand and Syria and Iraq on the other, coupled with hostile propaganda on the part of the two sides in respect of their political opponents, has prompted Ankara to opt for expansion of its already strong political as well as economic ties, with the illegal Zionist regime.

Unfortunately, the secular traditions of the modern state of Turkey have left no room for accommodating the ancient common religious as well as cultural bonds which the Arab and Turkish people share alike. And given the vicious propagand by Zionist circles against Islamic Iran, the recent agreement will have an adverse impact on regional politics, and perhaps harm the development of healthy and constructive relations among the regional states.

It may be mentioned that the Zionists are making attempts to address their security problems through political and military means and the new pact comes amid fresh political activity in the region to win overt support of some moderate Arab countries.

Simultaneously, it appears that one common purpose of Ankara and Tel Aviv is to put political as well as military pressure on their neighbours by means of intimidation. This, no doubt will propel the region towards more tension.

It is also clear that the Zionist leaders are political opportunists and seek to expand their grip all over the region through a chain of alliances with pro-western countries. And it seems that Turkey constitutes a main pillar for this well-calculated plan and the new arrangement falls within the post "peace process" strategy of Tel Aviv.

In the final analysis, it would have been better for Turkish politicians to have thought twice before concluding such an agreement which can only serve as an instrument for further penetration of the Zionists in the heart of the Muslim Ummah.

Iran: Editorial Says Israel Double-Crossing Palestinian Leaders

LD1004163696 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Apr p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Zionist regime's Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced on Monday [1 April] he would hold a referendum before signing a final peace accord with the Palestinians. Vowing to keep all Jewish settlements in place and hold a peace referendum, the Zionist official sparked anger among Palestinian leaders who said the Zionist prime minister is violating the autonomy accords.

Peres, who is to submit the referendum plan for approval at a congress of his ruling Labour Party on 25th April, also came out against the creation of an independent Palestinian state, saying he favoured a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

The so-called peace talks, which will resume after the forthcoming elections in the Zionist state, are expected to cover the thorny issues of the future of the Bait-ul-Moqaddas [Jerusalem], Jewish settlements and Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat who has frequently experienced the double-crossing of the Zionist politicians and the unreliability of their promises should now realize that sticking to the so-called peace process with the Zionist regime will get him nowhere and will only weaken the resistance and struggle of the oppressed Palestinian nation against the Zionist usurpers.

The Zionist prime minister has openly announced that dialogues carry no weight and it is the Jewish people who have the final word in returning the occupied Palestinian lands to their real owners.

Shim'on Peres has made the statement while touring some Persian Gulf states in a bid to create rift among the ranks of the Muslim countries and undermine their unity and solidarity.

Ever since the occupation of the Islamic lands, the Zionists have been following the evil policy of "divide and rule". Establishing ties with some Islamic countries and seeking to bribe other states have been some steps taken in this direction.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Besides, by making such a visit, Peres aims to whitewash the past crimes committed by the Zionist state against the oppressed Palestinian people and its present brutalities and atrocities against the defenceless people living in Lebanon and Palestinian refugee camps.

Muslim countries had better close ranks, take a unified stand against a regime which does not honour its commitments and rely on the support of Muslim masses instead of relying on foreigners.

Iran: Daily Criticizes Compromise by Arab Leaders Toward Israel

LD1004223196 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the regrettable and important consequences of the Persian Gulf war in the region is the creation of a new atmosphere in the process of compromise between some Arab leaders and the Zionist regime.

One of the new conditions in the region is the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization joining the Camp David conspiracy and accepting its political solutions; and that from a most powerless and humiliating position. Also, there is the readiness of the compromising Arab leaders to recognize the usurper Zionist regime.

In its latest stage, the compromise process has brought the wealthy southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf under its cover. This time around, the reactionary Arab regimes of this oil- rich region, in a repugnant conspiracy, welcome those whose blatant animosity toward the sovereignty of Islam is in no doubt. These regimes have considered themselves indebted to Washington ever since the Persian Gulf war.

The trend of joining the compromise process by the Arab states began with the two little shaykdoms of Oman and Qatar (which ostensibly claim to have better relations with Tehran than others). The Sultanate of Oman, which is hosting Shim'on Peres, the head of the regime usurping Palestine, through this treacherous act, on the one hand has undermined the political and military balance to the detriment of the Islamic resistance, and on the other, has created the conditions for the rich Arab shaykdoms of the Persian Gulf to join the compromise process with Israel.

Undoubtedly the presence of Peres, the head of the usurper Zionist government, in the Persian Gulf shaykdoms is a warning bell which must be taken seriously as a threat of proliferation of Zionist terrorism in the region. It is fitting that the foreign policy organ of Iran takes the threat of proliferation of the compromise process — which is taken as some kind of Zionist terrorism — more seriously and does not stint in any effort to stop this dangerous trend in the southern border areas.

Right now, all the northern neighboring states (from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan and Turkey) have become the arena for the dangerous presence and onslaught of the Zionist regime. Bearing in mind the similar situation which can be seen in the Middle Eastern and North African countries (in particular, the main sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict), utilizing national and transnational resources under the light of the original aspirations of the Islamic revolution to confront the political mischiefs of Tel Aviv — which take place with the direct and overt support of Washington — is a vital and urgent duty.

Iran: Topics Suggested for Tehran, EU Talks

LD1004164896 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 2 Apr p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seven-member European Union's Troika delegation is due to arrive in Tehran today for a two-day visit for talks with Iranian officials on crucial issues.

The delegation, headed by Italian Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ludovico Incisa di Camerana, is arriving in Iran following a hue and cry made by the United States through which it tried to involve Iran in suicide bombings by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Israel.

The EU foreign ministers in their March 9-10 meeting in Palermo, Italy, decided to send a delegation to several countries including Iran for talks on various issues including terrorism and Middle East peace process.

There are few points which should be viewed by the EU Troika - Spain, Italy and Ireland - before they start their parleys with the Iranian officials.

A - Iran was, is and will be in favour of having warm and cordial relations with Europe as a whole. Iran has a clear line between its relations with Europe and the United States when it talks about the West. And the reason is very clear.

The United States from the very first day of the success of its CIA-engineered coup in 1953 until the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, virtually ruled over Iran. But the Islamic system left no room for the U.S. to dictate its policy in Iran. But Washington still dreams to have a 'master's role' in this country. To translate its dream into reality the U.S. has adopted a policy of pressure tactics and disinformation campaign against

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran - a fact which should be realized and noted by Europe.

B - It is an open secret that Iran opposes the ongoing Middle East peace process just because it is unfair. Europe and others should note that the Iranian opposition to the so-called peace process never means to sabotage or subvert the process.

Iran's rationalism concerning the Mideast peace asks for a referendum in the occupied land in which the Palestinians, both living in Israel or elsewhere as refugees should take part and give verdict on the peace process. If majority accepts, Iran will be the first to support it. If the majority rejects, then not only 100 million dollar but even the 100 billion dollars should not be able to bring peace. It is quite natural and rational that U.S. and the Zionists would not understand, but Europe should.

C - And Hamas? All informed sources know that it is a quite independent group. The level of the Iranian influence on the Hamas never crosses the boundary of 'spiritualism'. And Iran time and again declared that Hamas enjoys only spiritual support from the Islamic Republic.

It is also not a secret that Hamas receives financial and other facilities from Syria and Saudi Arabia.

D - And Israel? It has a long list of violations of international laws. UN Security Council's Resolution Nos 238, 224 and 425 are still lying in the cold storage of the Zionist regime. Golan Heights, part of South Lebanon is still under the control of Israel. Isn't it an insult against the world community?

The same Israel which alleges that Tehran is a capital of terror, kidnaps Shi'i clergy, Sheikh Obeid from South Lebanon. Israel did so after killing and injuring few who happened to be witness of kidnapping and neighbour of the Friday prayer leader.

Constant bombings on South Lebanon, Tel Aviv-sponsor assassinations of those who were struggling for the liberation of their usurped homeland including Abu Jihad Abu Ayyaz, Shaqaqi and so many others are some of the bitter facts which are known to all of us including Europe.

In Tehran, they are welcome for healthy discussions on healthy issues related to bilateral, regional and international matter. For durable peace in the Middle East, they should go to Tel Aviv as none but they are great barrier in the way of a permanent peace.

In the light of these facts, it could have been better for the Troika officials to go to Tel Aviv to bring the terrorists into the senses.

Iran: Daily Views EU-Iran Talks; Calls On West To Apologize

LD1004203596 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday representatives of the European Union arrived in Tehran for talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The talks will focus on three topics: The Middle East peace, terrorism, and the Salman Rushdie case. The same topics were discussed last year when a number of representatives from the EU came to Iran on a similar mission. They submitted a letter with three proposals to our country's Foreign Ministry, calling on the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept these proposals. It seems as if this time too, the team sent over by the EU has come to Iran in order to follow up the same previous talks about which there is much to say:

A. The viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the process of compromise, terrorism, and the punishment of the apostate writer of the book "Satanic Verses" is explicit, clear, and unambiguous. We do not recognize a country named "Israel" in the political geography of the world, and we consider that the end of the occupying Qods regime's conflict with the Muslim people of the region, notably with the Palestinian nation, will be achieved only when Israel is completely destroyed. We consider as logical, just, and humanitarian, this viewpoint, which has been repeatedly emphasized by the departed imam — God's peace be upon him — and his successor. Therefore, Iran's objection to the "compromise project" is a logical, legal, and valuable opposition, and no plan or proposal which speaks of accepting the existence of Israel can be accepted by the nation and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Regarding terrorism, the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is also explicit and clear. Our people have themselves been the victims of the most savage kind of terrorism. The extensive acts of terrorism against the people and Government of Iran were not only ignored at the time by all international forums and so-called human rights organizations, but the latter were quite open in their support for the terrorists. Thus, countries which support terrorism, including America — and these same European countries whose envoys have come to Iran for talks — are dutybound, as a declaration of goodwill and as an acceptable token of their seriousness, to apologize to the Government and people of Iran and commit themselves officially to not support terrorism. However, the European countries, by employing an ugly and repugnant political ploy, call on the victim of terrorism to condemn terrorism.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Even though the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly condemned terrorism openly and in practice, it is necessary to pay attention to two points in these recent negotiations. The first is that the condemnation of terrorism at the request of the perpetrators and supporters of terrorism is a political ploy aimed at cleansing countries which support terrorism, including European countries. The second is that the talks must clearly and distinctly define terrorism. This is because existing signs and the remarks by officials of countries whose representatives have these days come to Iran for talks show that they are helpless and desperate in the face of Islam-seeking movements, and are endeavoring to condemn as "terrorism" the just and sensible resistance of the Muslim people of Palestine, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain and...!

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran's views on the fatwa of the departed imam — God's peace be upon him — against the apostate author of the book "Satanic verses" is also clear, explicit, unambiguous, and irrevocable....

B. The news, reports, and opinions cast by European circles about the EU delegation's trip to Iran indicate that the EU envoys are to come up with some proposals as a precondition for the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and European countries. That is, when, under current circumstance and with the fast growth of Islamic movements — especially in occupied Palestine, Egypt, Algeria, the Persian Gulf littoral countries and... — the vital interests of America and European countries have been highly endangered and seriously threatened. And since Islamic Iran is recognized as the focal point of pure and revolutionary Islam and a model for Islamic movements, it holds a winning card.

If the EU is really concerned about its interests in the region and wants cordial and reasonable relations with Muslim nations, it should break ranks, openly, with the joint American-Israeli camp. It should in practice pay attention to the demands of the Muslim nations and the proposals of the Islamic Republic, which is the standard-bearer of Islamic movements.

Therefore, the most vital condition for the success of the latest talks is for the EU to forget the idea that it is the strongest side in the negotiations, and to realistically assess its position in the latest talks.

C. Just briefly; these days some of our newspapers and some of our officials have expressed the hope that the EU will try and understand the facts and the realities. Despite the fact that even as recommendations! and guidelines! these statements are dignified and admirable, they are not realistic, because European statesmen, including the EU delegation, obviously know the facts and realities already. It is exactly because they understand these realities and are aware of the powerful and formidable position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islam-seeking movements that they are trying to control it.

The ignorance of European nations is acceptable because they are dominated by deceiving news networks. However, this cannot apply to statesmen. Western politicians know what the realities are. What is expected of them — which is to their benefit — is to accept the realities. It is evident that explaining the truth and realities does no harm, but is indeed beneficial. However, to imagine that the EU negotiators are unaware of the realities is to give them room to maneuver in the talks.

Iran: Majles Speaker States U.S. Causing Country's Drug Problems

LD1004142896 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri this morning addressed the second gathering of the judges of Islamic revolution courts throughout the country.

He pointed to global arrogance's plot in promoting the use of narcotics in different societies and said that a commitment to the principles and values of Islam was one of the most effective ways of confronting this sinister phenomenon. He added: While the Islamic revolution and its principles and values are vibrant, the hostility of America and Zionism against us will continue. They conspire against us every day.

He emphasized: We have to be fully equipped because an enemy who was defeated by us on the military and economic fronts is now trying to exploit this means to deliver blows to the Islamic Republic and to render the youth indifferent, robbing them of their faith and religious sensibilities.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri stressed the need for investment in work camps to reform and correct the behavior of offenders. He called on the Voice and Vision to produce and broadcast useful and effective programs so as to familiarize society and households more with the harmful effects of narcotics.

Information Minister Fallahian was the second speaker at the gathering. He referred to the way global arrogance exploited narcotics as a weapon against the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying: The aim of the West in increasing the activities of narcotics smuggling gangs in various countries is not only economic. Rather, their espionage organizations exploit this weapon to achieve their political objectives.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He referred to the existing information and statistics concerning the political and economic position of our country in the world, and, basing his remarks on this evidence, he said: The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world demonstrates its outstanding successes and advantages.

The information minister pointed to the capabilities and successes of the Islamic Republic of Iran in combating narcotics smuggling and called for the cooperation of relevant organizations and bodies for greater achievements in this field. At the start of this meeting, State Prosecutor General Morteza Moqtada'i also stressed the need for serious and decisive action against the sinister phenomenon of narcotics and also the need to explain that this fight will continue until the phenomenon is completely uprooted.

He noted that it is necessary for relevant organizations and their officials to intensify this fight, adding: We all have to understand the importance of this issue and pay more attention to it. We should study more serious ways of combating narcotics. [passage omitted]

Iran: Commentary Sees U.S. Moves on Environment Policy as Suspect

LD1004211396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2011 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Unattributed station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced that ecology and issues concerning the global environment will from now on form one of America's foreign policy principles. That a country should set environment issues among its foreign policy priorities and endeavor to prevent the destruction of the environment at a global level is in itself positive, but political experts do not see the Washington Administration as being true in pursuing environmental issues, particularly at global level.

Bearing in mind the black record of the arrogant and interventionist foreign policy of that country, they assess that as a suspect effort. That is because they believe that, to set the issue of preserving global environment side by side with issues such as human rights and to campaign against international terrorism, is a tool which America intends to use for promoting its interventionist objective on a global level. For instance, such a situation could assist Washington's efforts to prevent the export of advanced technology to third world countries, on the pretext of preserving the environment.

It must not be forgotten that the main responsibility for the chaotic world environment lies at the door of the industrial states such as America who, through the export of polluting technologies, production, and the sale of mass destruction weapons, nuclear tests, and the burial of nuclear waste underground and at the bottom of the oceans, and other activities which pollute the environment, play an essential role in destroying the environment.

What is certain is that America, in destroying the environment — from annihilating unique species, to the nuclear bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the Vietnam and the Persian Gulf Wars, and finally, the supply of billions of dollars worth of military arms to centers of crisis throughout the world — has played an unrivaled role. Therefore, if Washington is truly seeking to help with the world environment, it had better first remove from its chemical, nuclear, and biological arsenals those things which pollute the environment, and then embark on action at an international level.

Iran: Iraqi Opposition Urged To Listen to 'Voice of Reason'

LD1004172696 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 6 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Once more a bid by the Iraqi opposition for the creation of national consensus to overthrow an undemocratic regime in their country failed yesterday.

Similar moves in the past met with the same fate and in some cases opposition groups even failed to agree on an agenda for discussion and were forced to cancel their planned meetings.

This time, some 10 opposition groups had a meeting in Damascus and after a three-day parley they agreed to disagree on a common strategy to oust the dictatorial regime of President Saddam Husayn.

According to the reports, differences between the Kurds and the nationalists surfaced on a focal point of lifting the UN embargo, imposed on Iraq in 1990 following Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

The same reports indicate that the Kurds were in favour of a call for partial lifting of the embargo while others wanted a total lifting of the sanctions which put the common Iraqi people in the worst known troubles.

The opposition wanted to draw up a common strategy for ousting Saddam's regime and setting up a democratic multi-party system in their country.

We wish the Iraqi opposition could have realized the hardships suffered by 20 million people who are subjected to all known day-to- day problems as a result of plots engineered against them by the United States.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Memories of 1991's repeated calls by the Voice of America are still fresh when the American mouthpiece called [on the] South Iraqi Shi'a population to rise against Saddam's regime. But when they did rise against the dictator, the green light was shown to Saddam by the United States to crush the uprising violently.

The UN sanctions never hit the Iraqi ruling clique. The real sufferer are the common Iraqi people and now it is believed that the Security Council's sanction resolutions against Iraq are certainly unfair.

Instead of getting the resolutions passed by the world body, the U.S.-led forces could have easily thrown out the Baghdad dictator in 1991.

On the other hand, the opposition factions, instead of carving a common strategy for the welfare of the Iraqi people, are involved in propaganda against one another and their differences now are said to be deeper than ever before.

Four Islamic parties are included in the opposition factions but even they cannot find points of agreement to forge a common strategy and are opposing each other. The same thing applies to the so-called secular and socialists.

The sufferings and hardships of the Iraqi people have crossed all limits and now the opposition groups shoulder crucial responsibilities. They have to bury their differences for the sake of the betterment of common Iraqis who are now desperately looking up to the opposition leaders to redress their grievances. They should listen to the voice of reason.

Iran: Paper on Algerian Selection of Leader

LD1004213796 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 8 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual this week invited all but a few political parties and factions for what he called a 'democracy meeting.'

No sensible person would oppose any move for democracy. As a ruling system it is the order of the day and those who create hindrances in its way are living in a fools paradise. They must know that history will never forgive dictators or those who wear democratic garb but act in a dictatorial manner.

The same is true for Algerian President Zeroual. He announced his invitation to political parties and factions for the introduction of democracy in a country which was under a colonial system before achieving independence in 1962.

Following independence, Algerians have been ruled in the name of socialism and could not test democracy during the last 26 years. Then in 1992, for the first time multi-party elections were held in which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. Unfortunately, elections were cancelled and Algeria was plunged into a civil war, which has claimed 30,000 to 50,000 lives.

The FIS leaders were detained and are still waiting for their freedom.

In his democracy parleys, President Zeroual ignored the FIS, along with youth groups and feminist associations, and no explanation has been given for this.

No one is happy or supports what has happened in Algeria during the last few years. No doubt there have been certain illogical and unreasonable activities carried out by certain factions in the North African country. But to what extent is the FIS responsible for these unwanted activities? It is still to be proved by the government in Algiers.

What we are trying to say is that the FIS is a major political party in Algeria and in the 1992 elections their predicted victory was definite proof that the Algerian majority supported the Islamists. And if the group with the full support of the people is excluded from the democratic process, it will be nothing but a mockery of democracy — as is the practice in many other third world countries.

If such an important group is ignored in the country's vital process, then undemocratic and unwanted activities in Algeria should be expected. There may be a small unreasonable faction which embarked on armed activities, for which a major party such as FIS should not be punished.

Above all, let the people decide the fate of the political parties through all-party, free, and fair elections. This is the best time for President Zeroual to open the door for all political parties and let the people decide how and who should rule over them.

Iran: Daily Comments on Chirac's Lebanese Visit, French Presence

LD1004173096 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 7 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] In a bid to reinvigorate relations with his country's traditional friends, French President Jacques Chirac made a working visit to Lebanon.

With the 1990 ouster of Maronite Gen. Michel Awn from Lebanon, the French lost a lot of political ground in what formerly was a Mediterranean colony. Gen Awn fled when Syrian forces crushed his forces and put an end to the civil war which started in 1975. Awn is still in France.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

After the end of Socialist rule in Paris, Chirac looked back towards old French allies in order to renew politico-economic ties. The reports coming from Beirut indicate that Chirac and his longtime personal friend billionaire Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, yesterday succeeded in shaping the future course of bilateral cooperation in various major areas.

We, as Iranians, are happy for the resumption of diplomatic activities and friendly ventures of France in this strategically important part of the world. The French move is also welcome as its presence is necessary in this region after the collapse of a former superpower, the Soviet Union, and the ending of 45 years of so-called cold war.

A great disillusionment awaits the United States with the effective presence of France in the region, as Washington is sparing no effort in imposing itself on the regional countries as the sole power in the world.

What is expected of France is that her presence in the region be sincere and her intentions good. Above all, the French should extend impartial cooperation for finding solutions to the problems faced by the regional countries. If so, France will find a number of sincere friends who will be actively working along with Paris for bringing peace, stability and prosperity to this region. Following so many years of turmoil, oppression and exploitation, the area deserves a real peace and not an imposed one.

Chirac, in his statement in Beirut, stressed that "Lebanon should be allowed to exercise freely its full sovereignty over its entire territory."

The French president knows very well that Israel has occupied a Lebanese border enclave since 1985, defying United Nations Security Council resolutions to withdraw.

France also has a 241-strong contingent serving with a UN peace-keeping force along Israel's northern border.

Now it becomes really essential for France to be impartial and fair. It should condemn the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon. It is also necessary for France to exert pressure on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories at the earliest.

Iran: Velayati Comments on OIC Meeting in Sarajevo

LD1104072096 Tehran IRNA in English 0627 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home Thursday [11 April] morning from Sarajevo where he attended the 2-day ministerial meeting of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

In an interview upon arrival at Mehrabad International Airport, Velayati described his visit as fruitful saying Tehran-Sarajevo ties are expanding despite the propaganda of enemies of Islam.

The foreign minister stressed that Iran will continue its support for the government and nation of Bosnia during the reconstruction era as it did at the time of war.

Velayati added that the reconstruction headquarters and the culture house of the Islamic republic were inaugurated in Sarajevo yesterday.

Commenting on the final resolution of the OIC contact group meet, he said it reiterated commitment of Islamic countries to preserve the territorial integrity of Bosnia, support for the complete implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord and further cooperation among the two Islamic and western contact groups. The resolution also called on the internatioal community to provide immediate assistance to the Bosnian reconstruction.

The resolution also demanded prosecution of war criminals. It also declaraed the Islamic countries' readiness to render military assistance to Bosnia to beef up its defense capabilities.

Velayati underlined that the presence of OIC contact group in Sarajevo indicated determination of these countries to help reconstruct Bosnia.

According to Velayati, holding of the OIC contact group meeting in Bosnia is a sign of support of these countries for the Bosnian government and the person of Alija Izetbegovic at the threshold of the presidential elections in that country.

Before departure on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Velayati discussed Tehran-Sarajevo ties in a meeting with Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic.

Ganic referred to Iran as the greatest supporter of the government and nation of Bosnia during the war years as well as the economic reconstruction era.

Turning to friendly ties between the two countries, he called for further expansion of ties in political, economic and cultural fields under the present conditions in the Balkans.

The Bosnian vice-president also called for greater involvement of Islamic countries in Bosnian reconstruction.

Velayati also extended an invitation to Ganic to attend the inaugural ceremony of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan rialway.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

While in Sarajevo, Velayati held meetings with high ranking Bosnian officials including the president, the prime minister and the foreign minister on the sidelines of the OIC contact group meeting.

Iran: Daily Comments on Invalidation of Esfahan Election Results

LD1004180196 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] During the New Year holidays, when the market for internal news, particularly political news, usually becomes relatively depressed, we witnessed several important election developments, one of which being the invalidation of the Esfahan election results.

In the current round of the Majles elections, Esfahan was one of the cities which witnessed a spectacular turnout, so much so that around 65 percent of those eligible to vote took part in the polls (the number of votes cast in that constituency was 564,270), which compared to the preceding elections indicates a 78 percent increase in the turnout. The composition of the votes cast in that constituency (very low for the right-wing traditional candidates) and some statements and quotations regarding the reasons for the invalidation of those votes, and in particular, the failure of the Guardian Council to give any reasons for the invalidation, have led to concerns and protests, and it is only fitting that the issue be investigated meticulously.

On the periphery of this development, what is worthy of attention — which we will assess at a later opportunity — is the need for an immediate change in the electoral law, a change which has been recently and hastily introduced. Regarding the particulars which have been proposed initially in the new electoral law, there is the case of the candidates' reputation. That was raised as a new condition for candidates. Moreover, the raising of proposals, such as the candidates not getting the minimum required votes having to meet a certain portion of their own election expenses, indicates new moves aimed at restricting the people's electoral scope, and further guarantee the position of the candidates from the desired factions to succeed in the elections.

Iran: Deputy Investigates Possible Municipal Malfeasance

LD1004170696 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 4 Apr 96 p 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An investigation into the performance of the Tehran municipality has allegedly uncovered instances of illegal monies, discarded laws and extravagance, according to a Majles deputy speaking exclusively to 'Iran News'.

An investigative team is in the process of compiling an inquiry report to be followed up by judiciary authorities, according to Mohsen Kouhkan, a Majles member from Flavarjan, Isfahan Province.

Koukhan, a member of the investigative team said: Despite a lack of cooperation from Tehran's municipality, we have identified many discrepancies, such as lack of implementation of law, unlawful fees collected, unlawful aids granted and irrelevant extravagances.

The Majles member said that public knowledge of the municipality's performance touched only the surface of things. Kouhkan said engineers involved in the erection of aerial bridges in Tehran allege that some of these bridges are weak and dangerous from a technical point of view, a fault the MP attributes to shortcomings in Tehran's Traffic Organization.

"One fault of the municipality was that it gave incorrect information to the investigation team," Koukhan continued.

Such investigations are important for two reasons: Results can be followed up by the judiciary; and residents can be informed of what is happening in the municipality, he said.

"Of course these reports will have political consequences for senior members of the municipality," the Majles lawmaker concluded.

Iran: 2 Provincial Radio Stations Become Operational

LD1104095696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fars province radio network has become operational. According to a Central News Unit report from Shiraz, the network's programs will be broadcast between 0710 and 1930 every day on 594 KHz.

The Kermanshah province radio network has been commissioned. The network will broadcast cultural, scientific, social, and hygiene programs for 13 hours a day on 1278 KHz, medium wave.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Minister Reports Failed Attempts on Bhutto's Life

BK1004163196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar has said that there have been two abortive plots in the past to assassinate Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Answering a question of Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad Hashemi, he told the National Assembly today that the first attempt was a plan in Karachi by [New York World Trade Center bombing suspect] Ramzi Yusuf, and the latest attempt was to be made on the occasion of the cricket World Cup final match in Lahore. The government arrested the culprits before the attempt could be made. Some Arab nationals involved in the plot were extradited to their countries.

Answering another question of Hafiz Mohammad Taki, the interior minister said according to an estimate the number of terrorists in Karachi is between 1,500 to 2,000. Law enforcing agencies have arrested 346 of them. He said Altaf Hussain had advised the terrorists to disband, after which several of them had moved to up country. He said the government has arrested these terrorists from Faisalabad, Lahore, and Multan. Reports have also been received that many terrorists have gone to foreign countries, including 250 to Kuala Lumpur and others to United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He said the government is trying to trace them and apprehend them to bring them to books.

Referring to the law and order incidents, Nasirullah Khan Babar said that some participants of the rally led by Javed Ashraf, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group activist, were carrying petrol and they indulged in sabotage activities. Opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif raised objection against the statement and said Javed Ashraf was a worker of a political party and he should not be described as a terrorist. The interior minister responded that his statement is based on the circumstantial evidence and the case will go to the court as a judicial enquiry has been ordered into the incident.

Pakistan: Leghari Fetes Azerbaijan's Aliyev, Speaks on Issues

BK1004054396 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the constant atrocities committed by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir are a source of tension in South Asia. Addressing a banquet hosted in honor of Azerbaijan president, Heydar Aliyev, in Islamabad last night, he urged the international community to influence India to honor its commitment to the UN resolutions aimed at solving the Kashmir dispute. Appreciating Azerbaijan's principled support for the just cause of the Kashmiris, the president expressed the hope that Azerbaijan would also continue its support for a just settlement of the Kashmir issue. He said the presence of more than 600,000 Indian troops could not dampen the spirit of the people of Kashmir in continuing their struggle to realize their right of self-determination.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that Pakistan has been in the forefront of those supporting a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan issue under UN auspices. He said Pakistan does not have any favorites in Afghanistan. The leaders and people of Afghanistan themselves should make efforts to establish peace in their country. Expressing his concern at the situation in Afghanistan, the president said the situation there is tending to be interlinked with the situation in Tajikistan. He expressed the hope that our Tajik brethren would resolve their differences through political dialogue under the UN auspices. He said Pakistan has participated as an observer in all the five rounds of peaceful negotiations among the Tajik groups and it hosted the third round of talks in Islamabad.

Condemning the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, the president expressed his support for all measures aimed at a a peaceful solution of the problem. He said Pakistan and Azerbaijan would continue to cooperate at the international fora supporting each other's just causes. Referring to bilateral ties, the president said the visit of President Heydar Aliyev has a special significance. He said: Pakistan has already opened an ambassador- level resident mission in Baku and we are looking forward for the setting up of an Azerbaijan mission in Islamabad. He said that the close cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is in consonance with their shared vision of setting up an effective, dynamic, and prosperous economic community comprising the Central Asian republics and the Southwest Asian region.

In his speech, the president of Azerbaijan said: We fully support Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue. Referring to the Afghan problem, he also appreciated Pakistan's efforts for the restoration of peace in that country. He said Pakistan and Azerbaijan are bound by cultural, religious, and historical ties. He stressed the need for further strengthening the existing relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on Azerbaijan President Heydar Aliyev in Islamabad yesterday. Welcoming the honorable guest, the prime minister said the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

deep and friendly ties that exist between the two countries would be strengthened with the passage of time. President Heydar Aliyev thanked the prime minister for her sincere sentiments and extended an invitation to her to visit Azerbaijan.

During their meeting in Islamabad yesterday, Azerbaijan Finance Minister Yusupov Fikret Guseyin and Makhdum Shahabuddin, minister of state for finance, exchanged views on ways to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries. Azerbaijan's finance minister expressed great interest in importing sugar and cement plants, surgical equipment, and medicines from Pakistan. Assuring him of Pakistan's full support, the minister of state for finance said Azerbaijan would be provided with all possible assistance.

Pakistan: Bhutto, Azerbaijan's Aliyev Address News Conference

BK1004123096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Azerbaijan today signed eight agreements for increased cooperation between the two countries and said they have identical perceptions on Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh issues, as well as on the situation in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Bosnia.

Addressing a joint news conference in Islamabad today along with the visiting Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the visit afforded an opportunity to forge closer ties and exchange views on bilateral, regional, and international matters of mutual interest. She said she briefed President Aliyev about the tragic situation prevailing in Kashmir. She said Pakistan condemns Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and hoped that the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh will be resolved soon enabling Azeri refugees to return to their homes with dignity and honor. She said Pakistan stands by Azerbaijan in seeking a solution to the conflict and has offered a token assistance of $1 million for the refugees.

The president of Azerbaijan reiterated his country's full support to Pakistan on the question on Kashmir. He pointed out that Azerbaijan initiated a resolution on Kashmir at the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] Casablanca summit. He condemned Indian atrocities against the Kashmiri people. On Afghanistan, the Azeri president said they believe that several countries, including Pakistan, can help in the restoration of peace in the war-torn country, and these efforts should continue.

Pakistan: Bhutto, Azerbaijan's Aliyev Hold Talks, Sign Agreements

BK1004144096 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Islamabad today, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the visiting president of Azerbaijan, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, held talks on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. During the talks, which lasted for about two hours, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto apprised the president of Azerbaijan of the tragic situation prevailing in occupied Kashmir, where 600,000 Indian troops are brutally engaged in crushing the indigenous uprising of Kashmiri people for the right to self-determination.

The two leaders exchanged views on the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, where over a million people had been forced to leave their homes due to Armenian agression. The president and the prime minister noted with satisfaction both Pakistan and Azerbaijan share common perception on Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. They also discussed the important role which the Economic Cooperation Organization — ECO — can play in the overall economic uplift of the region. Both leaders also agreed to hold an early meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission set up last October to institutionalize relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan signed today nine documents to forge closer ties in trade, economy, tourism, and sports. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Heydar Aliyev also signed a document of understanding. They were present when the other agreements were signed. For Pakistan, the agreements were signed by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Interior Minister retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Begum Shanaz Wazir Ali, and the governor of State Bank. The agreements envisage avoidance of double taxation, cooperation in counselor issues, and promotion of banking, tourism, trade, and sports between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Pakistan: Bhutto, Azerbaijani President Discuss Bilateral Issues, Hold News Conference

NC1104092096 Baku TURAN in English 1512 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad/10.04.96/ TURAN—Today Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto received in her residence the president of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev. During the meeting they discussed questions of mutual interest. Then a pact of bilateral documents was signed between Pakistan and Azerbaijan: — statement on intention to deepen

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

bilateral co-operation; — consular convention, — convention on avoiding of dual taxation — agreement on interbank activity — agreement in tourism development — agreement on development of scientific- technical relations — agreement on adoption brotherhood between Ganja and Multan cities

After signing the documents a press-conference took-place. Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan condemns aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan and hopes that results of aggression will be eliminated soon. She expressed a hope that the occupied territories will be liberated soon and the refugees will be able to return to their native places.

She said Pakistan was ready to help the OSCE in case of formation of international peacekeeping forces and to present for this purpose a contingent of its armed forces.

On the eve, Heydar Aliyev was received by president of Pakistan Ahmad Khan Leghari. They discussed bilateral problems of mutual interest. Ahmed Khan Leghari said that Pakistan condemned the aggression by Armenia and supported the position of Azerbaijan in the conflict, TURAN correspondent reports from Islamabad.

Pakistan: Azerbaijani President Attends Banquet, Travels to Lahore

BK1104065296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of Azerbaijan, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, has said there are bright prospects for cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honor by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday in Islamabad, he said he has invited Pakistani businessmen to Azerbaijan to set up joint ventures in his country. President Aliyev promised all help to Pakistani businessmen for this purpose. He appreciated Pakistan's support to just position of Azerbaijan for ending military aggression of Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh. He similarly supported the just cause of the Kashmiri people and said the leadership in Pakistan was making concerted efforts to promote peace in the region.

Later the president of Azerbaijan flew to Lahore, where he was accorded a warm welcome. Welcoming the president of Azerbaijan at the governor's house, the provincial governor, Lieutenant General, Retired, Raja Saroop Khan, spoke of deep-rooted friendly ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and said the people of Pakistan were interested to further cement these ties with brotherly states of Central Asia. The Azerbaijan president shared Pakistan's concern over Kashmir issue and assured that his country would continue to support the cause of the Kashmiri people at all international fora. He reiterated the demand that the issue should be resolved on the basis of UN resolutions.

Pakistan: Editorial—Senator Brown's Visit Step Toward Afghan Peace

BK1004095296 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "A Propitious Move"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senator Hank Brown's brief Afghan visit can be regarded essentially as a ground-preparing exercise for talks later this month between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Robin Raphel and the leading protagonists on the Afghan scene. Mr. Brown, during his 36-hour stay in the war-ravaged country, held extensive talks with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud following his discussions with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafra'i at Bagram airport. A prominent feature of Brown's tour agenda-parleys with President Borhanoddin Rabbani — however did not materialize due to undisclosed reasons. His talks with leaders of a powerful, but neutral, political outfit Nangarhar Shoora and visit to Mazar-e-Sharif for discussions with Uzbek leader 'Abdol Rashid Dostum indicate the essential comprehensiveness of the tour program. He was later to have talks with the Taleban leaders who hold an effective sway over almost half of the country. According to press reports, Robin Raphel's trip later in the month will essentially trace the path treaded by Senator Brown. She is expected to hold talks with top-level Afghan leaders, including Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and 'Abdol Rashid Dostum. The high watermark of her tour will be a visit to Kandahar for discussions with the Taleban leadership.

The flurry of diplomatic activity which these tours represent clearly signals renewed American interest in Afghanistan in the wake of a six-month disorientation. Special UN envoy Mohmoud Mestiri too has lately sprung into action to cobble together a viable peace in the country. Afghanistan has undergone tremendous suffering over the years and it is almost time initiatives were mounted to bring back normalcy to the war devastated land. The reason why pace has eluded the country for so long is the involvement of regional players in the fratricidal conflict. And the fickle inter-factional alliances among the warring groups have imparted to the situation its essential fluidity. The refusal of President Rabbani to step down following expiry of his term of office in June 1994 in keeping with the Islamabad Accords, led to heightened internal polarization and outside interference. The Indo-Russian involvement in the unfortunate conflict is the result of a pact which Mr. Rabbani had concluded with New

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Delhi for acquiring technical support for his air force.. Reports also speak of Iranian and Saudi backing of the factions of their choice. Pakistan's involvement through the Taleban movement too is being alleged. And the Taleban factor has put a visible strain on Pakistan's ties with its traditional friend and ally Iran. All these players have thus played a role in precipitating the stalemate. The sole hope for Afghanistan lies in a concerned international initiative to evolve a consensual resolution of the conflict. The current U.S. initiative could well prove a step towards peace in Afghanistan.

Pakistan: Report Views Senator Brown's Meetings With Afghan Officials

BK1004095496 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 Apr 96 p 12

[Report by Mohammad Zahid in Peshawar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Senator Hank Brown, who Monday [8 April] visited Afghanistan, held separate talks with Nangrahar Governor Haji Qadeer, Ustad Sayyaf and Golboddin Hekmatyar on the current developments in the war-torn country.

Afghan sources from Jalalabad told THE FRONTIER POST here Tuesday that Senator Brown assured Afghan leaders that the U.S. wanted an early return of peace to Afghanistan and his trip was a step in that direction. However, Brown also expressed Washington's concern over Iran's increasing influence in the Afghan affairs, the sources said.

The U.S. official after an overnight stay in Jalalabad left for Mazar-e-Sharif on Tuesday morning for talks with 'Abdol Rashid Dostam's Jonbash-e-Melli leaders. Dostam is currently visiting the U.S. and some European countries.

On Monday, Brown held three hour long negotiations with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Afghan foreign minister Najibollah Lefra'i's at Bagram airport near Kabul.

Brown's visit to Jalalabad on Monday evening coincided with UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri's trip to the same city.

Mestiri, who during his fresh peace mission had already met President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul, held separate meetings with Haji Qadeer, Ustad Sayyaf and Hekmatyar.

Afghan sources said Mestiri was not carrying any specific formula and discussed only the ongoing situation and ways to restore peace to Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Haji Qadeer for the first time has acknowledged that clouds of war are looming over Nangrahar. Speaking at a function in Jalalabad on Tuesday, Qadeer warned that eastern zone of Afghanistan could become the next battlefield in the wake of growing differences among different Afghan parties "Eastern Afghanistan can become victim of faction rivalries", Qadeer feared.

The strongman of Nangrahar said in eastern areas people were living a peaceful life, but the threats of war by rival parties could endanger peace.

Since past several months, some factions have been trying to topple Haji Qadeer's government. Recently Nangrahar security forces arrested a group of 30 armed Afghans on the outskirts of Jalalabad. The identity and motive of the group has still not been revealed, however.

Qadeer, in reference to Taleban and Shoora Ham Ahangi, said some parties had been tempting him with money for bargain over certain issues. He, however, vowed that he would not bow to any pressure over the peace and security of eastern Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, once arch rivals, Hekmatyar and Ustad Sayyaf, have launched joint campaign against Taleban. According to some Afghans reaching from Nangrahar here, both Hekmatyar and Ustad Sayyaf could be seen together at functions in Jalalabad. Recently, both addressed functions at Najmaul Madaris and Najmuddin University at Jalalabad, Hekmatyar and Ustad Sayyaf have become closer in the wake of peace talks between Hazb-e-Eslami (Hekmatyar) and the Kabul government. Both the parties are reportedly about to strike a final deal over power-sharing formula.

Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami, as a goodwill gesture, has already agreed over the restoration of electricity from Sarobi dam to Kabul city and reopening of road to the Afghan capital.

Pakistan: Bhutto Addresses India on Kashmir

BK1004144596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated Pakistan's stand for holding a meaningful dialogue with India to solve the long-standing Kashmir issue. In her speech at a lunch she hosted for President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan in Islamabad today, she said Pakistan wishes to have tension-free relations with all its neighbors. This dispute, she said, continues to cast a dark shadow on the security environment of South Asia. She said India cannot forever keep the Kashmiri people in subjugation. It cannot deny them their right to self-determination, which has been pledged to them by India, Pakistan and the UN Security Council.

The prime minister said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been waging a valiant struggle to determine

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their own destiny despite the massive use of brutal military force by India. She said Pakistan expects the international community to use their influence with India effectively to make it honor its commitment. She expressed the hope that Azerbaijan will continue to extend its support and understanding for a just settlement of the Kashmir issue.

The prime minister said Pakistan condemns Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and fully supports measures for a peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. She said Pakistan desires cooperation in political, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, and technological fields with Azerbaijan.

On the Afghan issues, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the people in that country must themselves achieve national reconciliation by rising above their ethnic and factional differences. She also hoped that Tajik people will learn from mistakes of their Afghan neighbors and resolve the differences through a political dialogue under the UN auspices.

Pakistan: Kashmiris Condemn Rights Abuses; Journalist Found Dead

BK1104064996 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A large number of Kashmiri leaders and representatives of human rights organizations at their meeting in Geneva have strongly condemned the genocide of Kashmiris by Indian forces. These leaders belong to All Parties Hurriyat Conference from Indian-occupied Kashmir; Azad Kashmir; and Kashmiri organizations based in the United States, United Kingdom, and other regions of the world. Their meeting was also attended by the representatives of human rights organizations working in the United Kingdom and the United States.

In a statement adopted at the meeting, they condemned massive human rights abuses and serious crimes against humanity committed by Indian Government through its military, paramilitary, renegades, and mercenaries in occupied Jammu and Kashmir during the last seven years. The Kashmiri leaders and the representatives of the human rights organizations listed Indian crimes which included genocide; massacres; extrajudicial killings; reprisal killings; arbitrary detentions; torture; molestation of women; burning of villages, townships, and houses; and destruction and desecration of places of worship and other holy places. Their statement listed some 50,000 Kashmiri men, women, and children who lost their lives at the hands of Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir, where thousands of women were molested and tens of thousands of Kashmiris made political prisoners.

The Kashmiri leaders reaffirmed their unflinching resolve to continue their relentless struggle against the Indian forces and said massive repression by over 700,000 Indian troops in occupied Kashmir would not be able to crush the will of the Kashmiri people. They said no amount of repression can check their struggle gaining momentum day by day. They warned the international community of the grave escalation in repression by Indian Army against the people of occupied Kashmir and expressed serious concern at the deteriorating security situation in South Asia, which could erupt into a massive confrontation causing destruction.

In occupied Kashmir, the dead body of a journalist and social worker, Sheikh Ghulam Rasool Azad, has been recovered after 22 days of his arrest from River Jhelum. The family of Sheikh Ghulam Rasool Azad says he was arrested by the Indian forces. His death took place in similar circumstances as that of human rights activist Mr. Jalil Andrabi. He was missing since 20 March and his family at that time said that two policemen had come to his residence and took him with them, saying that he was called in at an Army camp which is situated in Pampur. Mr. Azad was editor of an Urdu daily, RAHNUMA-I-KASHMIR, and an English daily.

Pakistan: Grenade Explodes at Lahore PTV Station

BK1004094096 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Apr 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by THE NATION correspondent in Lahore]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A local-made powerful hand grenade exploded in the PTV Building premises on Tuesday [9 April] night, badly damaging at least eight cars and causing panic in the entire vicinity. There were no immediate reports of any casualty.

The bomb exploded at around 7.45 pm in the open area along the wall joining the PTV Building with the Radio Station. The bomb shattered the windscreens of six cars and burst the tyres of two cars parked near the scene of the explosion.

According to initial information, there was no eyewitness to the incident.

It was not immediately ascertained whether the bomb was hurled from within the premises of the PTV Station or the Radio Station or from the road. "The bomb appeared to be local made as the explosion left pieces of chips pebbles scattered at the spot SP CIA [Superintendent of Police Crime Investigation Agency] told reporters adding that the motive behind the attack

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

could be purely an act of terrorism which might have been carried out by a religious group. Crime reporters and photographers were denied access to the scene of the explosion, further deepening the mystery shrouding the incident. The crime reporters of two newspapers were attacked and beaten up by the PTV security guards at the gate of the PTV Building.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Parliament Passes Motion on State of Emergency

BK1004162096 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency throughout the island was passed in parliament by a majority of 36 votes; 116 MP's voted for the motion, while 80 voted against. MP's of EPDP, PLOTE, and the CWC [Eelam People's Democratic Party, People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, and the Ceylon Workers Congress] supported the motion along with the government. Only the MP's of the UNP [United National Party], Tamil United Liberation Front, and Sri Lanka Progressive Front voted against the motion.

The Lanka Sama Samaja Party had earlier stated that it would not support for the motion. Winding up the debate, Minister Amarasiri Dodangoda said that the imposing of emergency regulations had been prompted by the war in the north. It is also aimed at facilitating free and fair local government election.

Sri Lanka: Official—'No Intention' of Delaying Local Body Elections

BK1004034296 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 10 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Norton Weerasinghe — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Defence Minister Gen. Anuruddha Ratwatte told parliament on Tuesday [9 April] that the government had no intention to postpone the elections to local bodies due in June.

However due to the lack of sufficient police personnel to be deployed at a one-day election in all parts of the country as happened in the past, these elections will have to be staggered, Gen. Ratwatte said.

He said that the staggering of elections has to be made due to several policemen being deployed in the North and East and the fact that they cannot be released for election duty.

Gen. Ratwatte was speaking on a resolution he moved that the proclamation made by President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga extending the emergency to all administrative districts of the island from April 4, 1996, be approved.

Explaining the reasons why the government had to extend the emergency in the entire country, Gen. Ratwatte said there was information that certain disruptive elements were trying to create disturbances in the country in order to mar the government's forward march towards progress and to create communal strife among diverse ethnic groups.

Several arrests had been made recently of hard-core Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] rebels in various parts of the country like Nuwara Eliya, Kandy etc.

Several detections have also been made recently of explosives and arms and ammunition in several places in Colombo.

The government therefore had to proclaim a state of emergency throughout the country in the interests of public security and the preservation of public order and also to enable the law enforcement authorities to maintain law and order in the country since the normal law is inadequate.

He said that despite disruptive acts the government is working with a firm determination to restore peace in the country. The government is mindful of the LTTE's attempts to engage themselves in atrocities leading to mass destruction of innocent lives and valuable property and would relentlessly pursue all necessary measures to curb such a situation, he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.